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4 March 2020
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Murder inquiries to be axed if virus hits police numbers

Women in labour are refused epidurals

Amelia Hill

Women in labour are being refused epidurals in breach of official guidelines, a government inquiry has found.

In findings seen by the Guardian, an investigation by the Department of Health also found that women may not be being kept fully informed that if they choose to give birth at home or in a midwife-led unit, they may have to be transferred if they want an epidural. Failing to make women aware of that possibility would also be in breach of Nice guidelines.

As a result of the inquiry, Nadine Dorries, the parliamentary under-secretary for patient safety, will write to all heads and directors of midwifery at NHS trusts this week to remind them of the Nice guidance on pain relief during childbirth and to ensure that it is being followed.

Clare Murphy, director of external affairs at the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, said the results of the government's inquiry were "sadly not surprising". "We have spoken with many women who have been so traumatised by their experience of childbirth that they are considering ending what would otherwise be wanted pregnancies," she said. "Pain relief is sometimes treated as a 'nice extra' rather than

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Up to one in five of UK workforce could be off sick at peak of epidemic, government warns

Vikram Dodd
Heather Stewart

Police investigations into some homicides would be halted and 999 response times extended under contingency plans to help police cope with a severe coronavirus outbreak, the Guardian has learned.

As the number of confirmed UK cases reached 51 yesterday, the government warned that up to a fifth of the workforce could be off sick during the peak of a potential epidemic.

A series of measures would be introduced if the virus moved beyond the currently designated "contain phase", a 28-page action plan warned.

Last night, tests on thousands of patients in hospital intensive care units were ordered by NHS England amid concerns the virus could be spreading undetected among people with respiratory problems.

Twelve more people in England tested positive for coronavirus - the second highest single-day increase in cases to date - with all thought to have contracted it abroad. Eight had recently travelled from Italy, while the others came from Germany, Singapore, Japan and Iran.

Officials in the Canary Islands also reported the first case of a UK national testing positive at a quarantined hotel in Tenerife. In other developments:

▲ A bus passenger in London on the day the number of people diagnosed with coronavirus in the UK rose to 51
PHOTOGRAPH: VICTORIA JONES/PA WIRE

● A seventh person with the virus died in the Seattle in the United States, while the global death toll exceeded 3,100, with more than 90,000 people infected in 73 countries and territories.

● UK officials revealed plans for legislation that could force children and teachers to transfer to alternative schools if their own is shut down.

● If NHS staff numbers are affected, some non-urgent care may be delayed and retired medics brought back on duty, the government said.

● The Unite union warned that factories could shut or cut working hours because of shortages of parts from China if the crisis worsens.

Boris Johnson gave a rare Downing Street press conference to explain the government's "battle plan" yesterday, including potential advice to elderly people not to attend social gatherings. He was flanked by scientific experts, who Downing Street's research has suggested are most trusted by the public to carry crucial health messages.

Among plans drawn up to keep hospitals, schools and other public services running, the action plan warned: "With a significant loss of officers and staff, the police would concentrate on responding to serious crimes and maintaining public order."

Meetings of senior police officers and government officials have been hammering out options to deal with severe disruption, including rationing services to respond only to serious 999 emergency calls

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In Manchester: Centurion House, 129 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WR. Telephone Sales: 020-7611 9000.
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Published by Guardian News & Media, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU, and at Centurion House, 129 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WR. Printed at Reach Watford Limited, St Albans Road, Watford, Herts WD24 7RG; Reach Oldham Limited, Hollinwood Avenue, Chadderton, Oldham OL9 8EP; Reach Saltire Ltd, 110 Fifty Pitches Place, Glasgow G51 4EA; and by Irish Times Print Facility, 4080 Kingswood Road, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24. No. 53,972, Wednesday 4 March 2020. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office ISSN 0261-3077.

News

Murder inquiries face axe if virus hits police capacity

Continued from page 1

only, such as life-threatening crimes in action, domestic violence, sexual violence and homicides. One senior source said inquiries in non-time-critical homicide investigations could be postponed as long as there was no increase in threat or risk. “We could stop homicide investigations. Everything goes on the protection of life and property,” the source said.

Other steps taken by police could include increasing response times to crimes such as burglaries, as there is no legally set time to attend; postponing some proactive work, such as against gangs and serious organised crime, with those officers being diverted to frontline response; halting work on past crimes such as sex abuse; and pulling officers out of neighbourhood policing – seen as vital to building trust and intelligence – so they are free to respond to 999 serious emergencies.

Police chiefs could choose to suspend the 101 non-emergency police number to discourage the reporting of low-level crimes, though there would be concerns about a rise in 999 calls.

The source added that forces were suffering from years of cuts and would face hard choices if the most severe effects of coronavirus were realised: “The public can't expect as good a service in a worst-case scenario. They need to be reasonable about what a police force with 20% of staff missing because of illness, and still depleted from austerity, can do.”

The action plan said the army was on standby to help. Soldiers with guns could guard parliament and Buckingham Palace, with armed police moved on to other duties, it is understood.

▼ *The Queen took the unusual step of wearing gloves as she presented awards at Buckingham Palace*

PHOTOGRAPH: DOMINIC LIPINSKI/PA



Sketch John Crace

Johnson has spent his entire life washing his hands

And ... breathe. Not too deeply. And not all over anybody else. After more than six weeks of mooching around in No 10, Johnson finally broke off from his sabbatical to ease concerns about a pandemic. Don't panic!

As Boris walked into the room, flanked by chief medical officer, Chris Whitty, and chief scientific adviser, Patrick Vallance, his trademark smirk was replaced by the serious face. It wasn't altogether convincing – it never is – but it was the best he could do. When you're trying to find the right words to tell

several hundred thousand people they may die, it's probably best not to look too chipper. Don't panic!

Boris began by outlining the government's four-part strategy. Contain, delay, research and mitigate. He forgot to mention the fifth strand of 'doing almost nothing', which had been the plan up until the previous weekend. Everything was probably going to be more or less OK for most people, he continued, though for some people it would undoubtedly not be. But try not to worry as the NHS, already severely overstretched and underfunded, was uniquely placed to cope with an extra 2 million patients. Don't panic!

“The best thing you can do,” Boris said, “is to wash your hands with soap and hot water while singing Happy Birthday twice.” Mostly as an aspiration that you make it till your next one. Still, at least here he was on relatively strong ground. Because if there's one thing Boris knows something about it's washing his hands. He's washed his hands of almost everything: family, children, friends, colleagues,

In a sign of the scale of strain on Britain's fabric, police have been told by planners to limit demands on the army – because the military may be filling in for firefighters or even helping to bury the dead.

Military help would come under plans originally devised for terrorist emergencies, when the UK goes on to “attack imminent” alerts, such as after the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing.

The government is planning to pass legislation creating powers to use if the outbreak becomes more serious and medical experts deem “social distancing” necessary to control its spread.

These are expected to include the power to detain people at the border to carry out medical checks; allowing more extensive use of court hearings by video-link, as already happens in certain cases; and enabling the government to close big public events – though the government believes many would be cancelled voluntarily.

Johnson played down the risk of widespread school closures, saying: “We don't think schools should be closing in principle. If possible they should stay open but school authorities should follow the advice of Public Health England.” But the government wants to be prepared to tackle potential teacher shortages in individual schools or areas. Legislation is expected to permit the relaxing of constraints on class sizes and the sending of pupils and teachers to other schools if theirs are closed or demand is created by staff being off sick.

Officials say new powers would not be used at this stage of the outbreak but could be triggered if the World Health Organization declares that the risks have escalated.

The powers would be temporary, either through the inclusion of a sunset clause or by allowing the legislation to lapse, once the chief medical officer and chief scientific officer declare that the disease is no longer an epidemic.

morals, scruples. Pontius Boris. Having listened in silence as the prime minister tried to minimise the situation, Whitty and Vallance were left to deliver a cold dose of reality. It became clear the government's emergency plan had been hastily cobbled together over a couple of days and didn't really stand up to close examination. Don't panic!

The longer the press conference went on, the more uncomfortable the PM looked. Boris hates being the bearer of bad news. One of the things he had liked about Brexit was that no one was likely to die from it. Or not so anyone would notice. Now it was all getting a bit too real.

Boris tried to cheer people up a bit. The good news was that if the coronavirus really did get everywhere, there would be no need for isolation units or preventing overseas travel. Though it might be an idea to only visit countries with better health care than our own. The shiny new blue passport did guarantee immunity from Covid-19 and all other foreign illnesses.

An hour later, Matt Hancock delivered much the same message in the Commons. He sounded more convincing in saying he didn't know what he was doing than the PM had. When a 12-year old Tigger is the one with gravitas then it really is time to panic. Don't panic!

A rebuke from stage left: young actors ignore our theatrical history, says Lumley

Mark Brown

Arts correspondent

She was a superstar in her day: mobbed by fans, paid a fortune and one of the finest stage performers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with a technique that was a forerunner to method acting. But mention the name Ellen Terry to young actors and they'll look at you with a blank expression, Joanna Lumley said yesterday.

"Younger actors now don't even know who Peter O'Toole is," Lumley said. "I'm absolutely shocked. They literally don't know who Christopher Lee is, they don't know who some of

the giants of our day are. I get so ... I have to hush my mouth.

"If you are interested in things, you learn about them," she said. Some people just "could not give a toss ... it means nothing to them. A chunk of this magic party of life which we attend is lost to them. They've walked past because they are too stupid to open the door and have a look."

Lumley was speaking as the new patron of the Barn Theatre, a tiny but atmospheric theatre space created in 1929 at Terry's country home, Smallhythe Place in Kent, by her daughter after her death.

The house, looked after since 1939 by the National Trust, is a shrine to all things Terry, with costumes and memorabilia from one of her most acclaimed roles going on display together for the first time from today.

"You can almost see her standing there," said Lumley, mesmerised by one of Terry's stunning gold velvet costumes from the 1882 production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. "This is a living actress there, that could be Helen Mirren."

Terry was the leading actress of her generation, a star in the US as well as Britain. "She was talented, popular, a huge celebrity," said Susannah Mayor, Smallhythe's senior steward.

"At the height of her career she was earning the equivalent of £24,000 a week, a huge amount for a woman at that time to earn."

The three costumes going on display are from Henry Irving's spectacularly lavish production of *Much Ado* at London's Lyceum theatre at which no expense was spared. As well as the actors there was an orchestra, choir, military band, organ and scores of perfectly costumed extras.

Terry also had an interesting private life, married three times, numerous affairs and not married to the father of her three children. "I quite like her cavalier attitude to men," said Lumley. "She was complicated in a way we are complicated in today's world."



◀ A 16-year-old Ellen Terry photographed in 1863. She would become a huge star on both sides of the Atlantic

PHOTOGRAPH: ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

'You can almost see her standing there. This is a living actress there: that could be Helen Mirren'



▲ Joanna Lumley with the gown Ellen Terry wore in a 1882 production of *Much Ado About Nothing*



▲ Christopher Lee in *The Wicker Man* and Peter O'Toole in *Lawrence of Arabia* PHOTOGRAPH: ALLSTAR/BRITISH LION/STUDIOCANAL



Kea parrots weigh up probability to make the best bet, study finds

Nicola Davis

Eleanor Ainge Roy

Some parrots weigh up probabilities to help make choices, according to a study that provides the first evidence of this skill outside great apes.

In previous studies African grey parrots have been found to help their peers complete tasks and seem able to identify colours and count. And cockatoos can keep track of an object's

location, even when it is hidden, and can invent dance moves.

Now researchers have found that the kea, an endangered New Zealand alpine parrot, appears to use probabilities when taking a gamble.

While there have been hints that some other birds and certain monkeys can do this, the team behind the study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, say it is the first time this skill has clearly been shown outside humans and other great apes. The

birds, they found, seemed to harness multiple sources of information to decide the better bet.

"Birds and other animals may be thinking in more flexible and general ways than we thought," said Amalia Bastos, co-author of the research, at the University of Auckland.

The research team trained six male kea to associate black wooden tokens with treats, and orange tokens with no reward. Each bird stood in front of a screen behind which stood a researcher and two transparent jars filled with black and orange tokens.

The researcher picked a token from each jar, the top of which was masked from view, concealing one token in each fist. The kea tapped on a dividing

screen to indicate which hand to open. Each bird - including Blofeld, Loki and Taz, all named after mischievous fictional characters to reflect the parrot's curious mind - was tested 20 times on which jar they preferred the researcher



▲ Scientists say Kea show a level of flexible thought akin to the great apes

to pick tokens from; overall three birds all favoured the hand that dipped into the jar with more black tokens.

In other tests two jars were filled with the same number of black tokens but different number of orange ones. Four of the birds favoured the jar with the greater ratio of black to orange.

The kea were therefore not simply responding to the actual number of tokens. "Kea must have used proportion of black-to-orange tokens, meaning they considered the relative probability of obtaining a black token from both jars to make their choice."

Further experiments showed the kea could make use of other experiential differences to boost their chances of scooping their quarry.

NHS orders tests in intensive care amid fears over threat to patients

Denis Campbell
Haroon Siddique

Thousands of people in intensive care in England will be tested for signs of the coronavirus amid fears that the virus is circulating in units that are treating seriously ill patients.

NHS bosses have ramped up efforts to detect Covid-19 by ordering all 135 acute hospital trusts in England to routinely test anyone in intensive care units (ICUs) with a breathing problem. They are worried that already very sick people in hospital for different illnesses could become infected via other patients.

The move is a direct response to the detection of Covid-19 in patients in ICUs in Europe whose illness cannot be traced to any of the areas where the virus is circulating, such as northern Italy. Staff working in such units have also contracted the virus.

The move came to light in a letter yesterday by Keith Willett, the senior doctor co-ordinating the NHS England effort against the virus. He told trusts: "In recent days new Covid-19 infections have been diagnosed in intensive care units in a number of European countries, without any epidemiological links to high-risk areas.

"Nosocomial [hospital-acquired] transmission has occurred in these units. It is essential we detect cases admitted to intensive care at the earliest. We are requesting that all intensive care units and severe respiratory centres commence case detection."

Adult and paediatric ICUs should test any patient whose "presenting condition is an acute community-acquired respiratory infection of any

kind, regardless of known or suspected causative pathogen and clinical features", the nine-page letter said.

Willett's letter also reveals that NHS England has declared the coronavirus outbreak to be a level 4 incident, the highest level of anything seen as a threat to the functioning of the health service. It previously designated the damaging Wanna Cry attack on NHS IT systems in 2017 as a level 4 incident.

The move emerged as the government said that 12 more people in the UK had tested positive for coronavirus, taking the total number infected to 51.

Eight of the new patients who were announced yesterday had recently travelled from Italy, and the fresh cases also included the first to have travelled from Germany. The others had been to Singapore, Japan and Iran, suggesting none were believed to have contracted the virus in the UK.

Health officials in the Canary Islands reported the first case of a British national testing positive, detected at a quarantined hotel in Tenerife.

The 12 new UK cases constitute the second highest single-day increase in cases to date. They include the first known cases in Hampshire, Humberside and Northamptonshire. Others are from London, Wirral, Greater Manchester and Kent.

Will Welfare, of Public Health England North West, said there were three new Covid-19 cases in Greater Manchester, including two from Bury. "We know the new Bury cases [announced yesterday] are known contacts of the previously confirmed case from Bury. The third case is a resident of Bolton [who] became infected whilst in Italy."

Millions of patients could have their NHS care postponed if an epidemic forces hospitals to cancel planned operations and outpatient clinics to free up beds and doctors.

Helena McKeown, a chief officer at the British Medical Association, said: "If the virus escalates in scale the impact ... will be grave."

The government's proposal to recruit retired doctors to help "needed serious scrutiny", as they could put their own health at risk, she added.

Paul Donaldson, of the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association, said it was a "desperate measure we should never need to resort to".

There are also concerns that hospitals might have too few beds in ICU and high dependency units to cope with the people needing help to breathe due to the virus. Daniele Bryden, vice-dean of the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine, warned that while demand on units had been rising at 4% a year since 2009 the number of beds and staff had not kept pace.



Preparing for the worst How No 10's battle plan could play out

Denis Campbell
Haroon Siddique
Matthew Weaver

Publicity

This will be increased in the UK to inform about the need for people to adopt good hygiene measures (such as regular handwashing, and "catch it, bin it, kill it" with tissues) and for workers to stay at home for the full duration of their illness.

Analysis Simple measures can mitigate the risk of individuals getting the virus. Public information campaigns are key to reminding people of their responsibilities.

Population distancing strategies

These include school closures, encouraging working at home, and reducing the number of big

gatherings. It includes the caveat that the UK should be able to continue "as normally as possible". **Analysis** These are strategies already implemented in countries with higher numbers of Covid-19 cases. In Italy many football matches have been cancelled; France has banned all indoor gatherings of more than



▲ Boris Johnson is aiming to recruit retired doctors to beef up the response

5,000 people. Numerous other events globally have been cancelled or relocated. The government wants to limit the social impact but that may not be possible if containment fails. The question will be what makes a large-scale gathering.

Reduced police capability

There is an acknowledgment that the emergency services may be impeded by an increased spread of the virus. The document refers to a potential loss of officers and staff, which could force police to concentrate on serious crimes and maintaining public order.

Analysis This raises the possibility of police being so overstretched many crimes will not be investigated and officers will be reduced to making sure there is no loss of confidence in their ability to maintain public order. This is a scenario that the government will want to avoid.

Medical detention for Covid-19

New powers introduced in England allow "medical professionals, public health professionals and the police to ... detain and direct individuals in quarantined areas at risk or suspected of having the virus". Scotland already has such powers, while in Wales and in Northern

'Scaremongering' Mask adverts banned

The Advertising Standards Authority has banned "alarmist" and "scaremongering" ads for masks that it said played on fears over the coronavirus outbreak.

The regulator found that online ads from two companies breached its code and were misleading, irresponsible and "likely to cause fear". One advertiser, Novads OU, based in Estonia, ran ads for an "Oxybreath Pro" face mask that highlighted the Covid-19 death toll and referred to a "growing sense of panic" before touting the mask's "unparalleled [sic] protection".

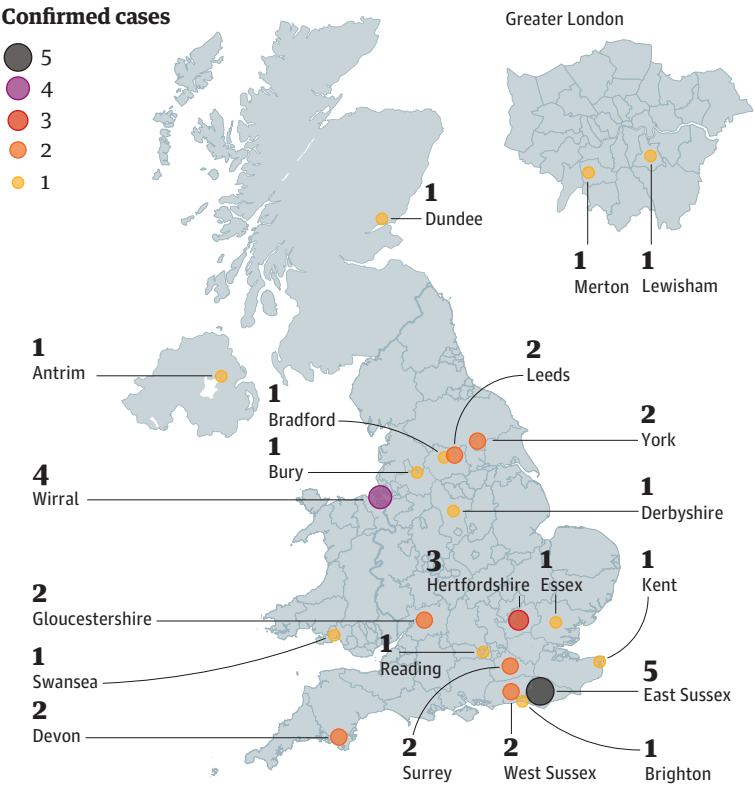
Novads OU did not respond to the ASA's ruling.

Ian Sample

▼ **Facemasks worn in central London yesterday. The government is banking on containment of the virus**
PHOTOGRAPH: KRISTINA SERGEEVA/GUARDIAN



There were 51 confirmed cases of coronavirus in the UK



plans [for providing] excellent care for all patients affected”. **Analysis** The prospect of large numbers becoming seriously unwell raises two problems for the NHS: a beds shortage in intensive care and high dependency units, and a lack of general and acute beds. The UK has about 4,250 critical care beds. The Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine is worried that while demand for such beds has risen at 4% a year since 2009, available beds have not increased.

Patients discharged early Under the plan “health and social care services will work together to support early discharge from hospital, and to look after people in their own homes”. **Analysis** That would lead to hospital doctors identifying patients who were the least sick, whose beds would then be used by people seriously ill with coronavirus. However, the widespread shortage of social care services – which already leaves patients stuck in hospital despite their being medically fit to leave – could limit the potential for sending inpatients home safely. The social care workforce is already very stretched, so may struggle to take on this extra responsibility. And numbers of district nurses have fallen sharply in recent years.

Restricted hospital admissions If the coronavirus leaves more people ill enough to require hospital care, and NHS staff too sick to carry on working, “clinicians may recommend a significantly different approach to admissions”. This could include delays to some non-urgent care. **Analysis** This could mean some or all non-urgent NHS operations – for example hip and knee replacements, cataract

removals and hernia repairs – being postponed. That would increase patients waiting for such treatment, in England alone there are 4.5 million. They could wait months until the virus has subsided and hospitals return to their usual way of prioritising patients.

Deaths/mortuary spaces The action plan recognises that the coronavirus outbreak could lead to an increase in deaths, particularly among vulnerable and elderly sections of the public, and that dealing with these fatalities could put pressure on local authorities. **Analysis** The Human Tissue Authority has been warning about problems with mortuary capacity since 2014-15. Last week, Nicola Aiken, the Tory MP for Cities of London and Westminster, said that there were contingency plans relating to Covid-19 for a morgue in Hyde Park, central London. She later rowed back from the claim, perhaps wary that it jarred with the government’s attempt to quell panic among the population. However, she spoke to the truth, in that a large increase in deaths would stretch the ability of existing facilities to cope.

Use of retired doctors and nurses The plan confirms that if necessary, “leavers and retirees” could be called back to work to help relieve the pressure on current NHS staff. No other details have been provided but the General Medical Council has said that it could grant doctors temporary registration for the duration of the emergency. **Analysis** It is unclear how this plan is compatible with World Health Organization advice for those aged 60 or older to avoid possible contact with people who are infected with the virus. Retired medical workers may be reluctant to return to work for their own safety and that of potential patients.

**‘Just a movie’
It’s no time to
release Craig’s
last Bond
film, say fans**

Mark Sweney

James Bond fans have called for the global release of *No Time to Die* to be delayed because of the outbreak of coronavirus.

The global premiere of the film, Daniel Craig’s last outing as 007, is set for the Royal Albert Hall on 31 March before an international release at the beginning of April.

The founders of two of the most popular fan sites – MI6 Confidential and the James Bond Dossier – have written an open letter to the film’s producers asking for a delay until summer, citing public health concerns.

“It is by no means easy to say this: the release of *No Time to Die* should be postponed,” says the open letter to EON, MGM and Universal.

“It is time to put public health above marketing release schedules and the cost of cancelling publicity events. It’s just a movie.”

Publicity tours have been cancelled in China, South Korea and Japan, and the release of the film in Hong Kong has been delayed until 30 April.

“Hundreds of fans and celebrities from around the world will be flying to the UK to attend,” say James Page and David Leigh in their letter.

“The Royal Albert Hall capacity is above the 5,000 limit that affected countries are banning for public gatherings. Just one person, who may not even show symptoms, could infect the rest of the audience. This is not the type of publicity anyone wants.”

The letter argues that as the coronavirus spreads, fans will stay away from cinemas. “The situation by late March and early April will not be conducive to the box office,” it says. “[Waiting] another few months will not damage the quality of the film and only help the box office for Daniel Craig’s final hurrah.”

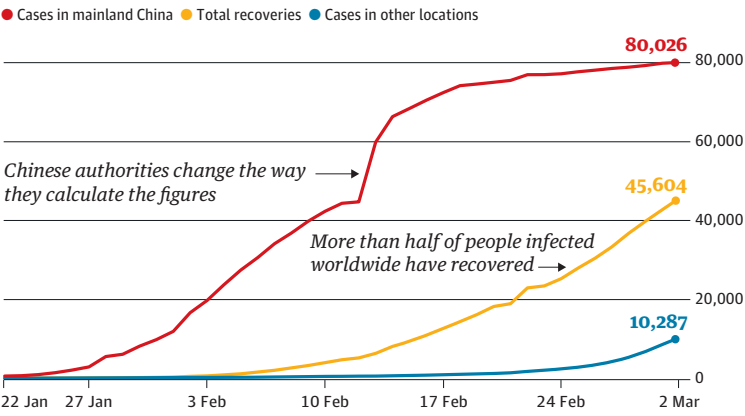
Meanwhile, Disney cancelled a star-studded event in west London to mark its entry into the European streaming market with Disney+.

Hundreds of people from across Europe had been due to attend an unveiling before the service’s consumer launch on 24 March. “Due to a number of media attendee cancellations and increasing concerns at the prospect of travelling internationally at this time, we have decided to cancel,” the company said.



▲ A poster for the new James Bond film, *No Time to Die*, in Bangkok

Covid-19 cases have levelled off in China but are rising faster elsewhere



Source: Johns Hopkins CSSE Note: the CSSE states that its numbers rely upon publicly available data from multiple sources, which do not always agree. Data correct at 23.59pm, 2 March

Ireland a justice of the peace can let officials “isolate, detain or require individuals to undergo medical examination”. **Analysis** In China whole populations have been put into quarantine, which medical experts say has slowed the spread of the virus. Italy has done the same on a smaller scale. It is unclear how the proposed draconian new power of detention would work in Britain if it were deemed necessary to use it. Questions arise over how those

whose behaviour was causing concern would be identified, the availability of police, and where people would be detained.

Specialist care for the seriously ill “Initial confirmed patients” who have serious breathing issues from Covid-19 will be cared for in critical care units in hospital – and “when necessary, the provision of care may move from specialist units into general facilities in hospitals”. The statement refers to “well-rehearsed

▼ A medic treats a patient infected with the Covid-19 virus at a hospital in Iran's capital, Tehran PHOTOGRAPH: KOOSHA MAHSHID FALAH/MIZAN/AFP/GETTY



'Out of control' Iran struggles as spread of virus further erodes trust in government

Patrick Wintour
Diplomatic editor

Little rows of matchsticks have appeared alongside cash machines and lift doors, offering a chance for Iranians to press the buttons without their fingers touching potentially contaminated surfaces. Guides have also appeared on how to attach extensions to cigarette lighters and men no longer shake hands or kiss as a greeting, but tap their shoes instead. Traffic jams have disappeared from Tehran's streets and the metro train carriages are disinfected two or three times a day. Distance working and learning have become the norm.

As the official death toll has risen

- Iran's authorities said a total of 77 people had died because of the virus - Friday prayers were cancelled for the first time since the 1979 revolution. Schools, universities, theatres and cinemas are closed. Water consumption, due to the frequent washing of hands, is at the peak level normally recorded in July. Even the Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiei is holding his press conferences by video link. The supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, sits further back from his audience. After all, more than 20 officials or MPs have been infected.

Ever since the coronavirus arrived in the holy city of Qom on 19 February, a deadly combination of forces - including the debilitating effect of years of US sanctions, a rundown health service and low levels of trust in the government

- has conspired to make Iran the country with the highest mortality rate from the disease.

Many Iranians have adapted to the crisis, but the question is whether the theocratic government has done the same, or at the speed required to outpace the epidemic.

The World Health Organization director general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said he had seen no evidence that Iran was covering up the scale of the outbreak, but many disagree. The Iranian health department insists its figures are not being politically massaged. The government said 77 people had died, the number infected had reached 2,336, 835 more than the previous total. Experts fear the country's high ratio of deaths to infections - about 3.3% - may mean the actual infection figure is far greater.

Two senior Iranian officials have already died from the virus and several more are infected. Semi-official news agencies reported yesterday that the head of the emergency medical services, Pirhossein Kolivand, was ill.

Never has the arrival of Nowruz, the Persian New Year on 20 March, seemed less of a moment to celebrate. But the health ministry promised the outbreak would be under control by then, partly because of the warmer weather.

Health teams have been stationed on the edge of cities to stop infected travellers spreading the disease. More than 1,000 testing stations are being established. Production of surgical masks and detergents has been stepped up. Equipment from abroad is on the way. As many as 300,000 soldiers and volunteers are being mobilised, with training being given to go door to door to check for undetected cases.

The clergy has threatened fines for anyone passing on the disease. The judiciary yesterday threatened that hoarders of medical equipment would face the death penalty. Even the Revolutionary Guards took to the streets using water cannons to spray disinfectant.

But the suspicion that Iran's public services are overwhelmed remains and the authorities have simply been too slow to react, especially by not quarantining the

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe Hopes of release dashed



Hopes that Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe was about to be freed temporarily from jail in Iran have been put in doubt.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a UK-Iranian dual national, has been in prison since 2016. On Saturday her husband, Richard Ratcliffe, said he believed she had contracted the coronavirus.

However, the Iranian ambassador Hamid Baeidinejad, in a tweet yesterday, wrote: "The spokesman of Iran's judiciary said Mrs Nazanin Zaghari is in good health and has not been affected with coronavirus." He added that one of the prisoners with security charge "will be granted a furlough to join family".

But in a later tweet, Baeidinejad said the statement he had referred to had been "an interpretation".

Patrick Wintour

'Officials are covering up the issue due to political, economic consequences'

Behrouz Kalidari
Surgeon in Isfahan

worst affected cities, a decision now openly criticised by media and epidemiologists.

Citing hospital sources last week, BBC Persian was the first to suggest a state cover-up was under way, claiming more than 2,000 people had already died, while on Twitter pictures of mass graves being dug were published.

Gholam Ali Jafarzadeh Emenabadi, an MP for Rasht, 185 miles (300km) north-west of Tehran in Gilan province, warned hospitals were overflowing with coronavirus victims and were unable to take new patients. He said the authorities had not been telling the truth, describing the official death toll as a joke. As many as 700,000 people had travelled to the province since the outbreak began. At the Shahid Beheshti hospital in Gashan doctors spoke of the crisis spiralling out of control.

In Isfahan, a general surgeon, Behrouz Kalidari, said as many as 12,000 probably had the virus and did not know it. He added: "Regrettably, an absolute disaster has taken place in Qom and the story is out of control. Unfortunately, officials are still concealing the issue due to the political, economic consequences. We can handle the issue in Hamedan, Zanjan, Arak, Qazvin, Mashhad, and even here in Isfahan if we act soon." But if the measures were not tightened, the country faced a national disaster.

Signs of tension within government have also emerged. The health minister, Saeed Namaki, felt forced to write to the president, Hassan Rouhani, to say that only 1m health masks had been delivered and officials were having to turn to the black market to source them at five times the official price.

The fate of political prisoners is also being debated, with judiciary officials dismissing rumours that the virus had got behind bars.

Epidemics reveal deeper truths about the societies they afflict, and the Iranian government is hampered by a trust deficit that it blames on hostile western media rather than itself. But the state's secrecy over the killing of street protesters in November and the cover-up of the downing of the Ukrainian civilian jet over Tehran in February have made that trust deficit more acute. A turnout of just 20% in last month's parliamentary elections in Tehran revealed popular disillusionment with politics.

Khamenei accused Iran's enemies of exaggerating the threat of the infection to scare voters away from the polls. But yesterday, as state media reported that 23 members of parliament had been infected and all politicians were told to avoid the public, the odds of repairing that broken trust looked more remote than ever.

▼ North Korea's Kim Jong-un, is surrounded by soldiers in face masks at a military drill; below left, women at Tokyo's Shibuya shopping district;

below right: nervous passengers waiting at Entebbe airport, Uganda

PHOTOGRAPHS: KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY/ KNS/AP; SUMY SADURNI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



As spread accelerates, WHO reveals death rate is far higher than flu

Jon Henley

About 3.4% of confirmed cases of coronavirus have died, far above seasonal flu's fatality rate of under 1%, the head of the World Health Organization said yesterday, although he said the disease could be contained.

The WHO chief's intervention came as fast-spreading outbreaks continued in the Middle East, Europe and South Korea - where authorities declared "war" on the virus after 582 new cases took the country's total to more than 5,000, with 34 deaths.

Chinese officials said yesterday that the count of new cases fell to just 125, after a six-week low of 202 the previous day, although the country remains by far the hardest hit, with 80,151 cases and 2,943 dead.

Beijing's ambassador to the UN, Zhang Jun, said China was winning its fight against the virus. "We definitely believe that with the coming of spring

we're not far from the coming of the victory of the final defeat of Covid-19," he said.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO director general, said: "Covid-19 spreads less efficiently than flu, transmission does not appear to be driven by people who are not sick, it causes more severe illness than flu, there are not yet any vaccines or therapeutics, and it can be contained."

China, which imposed draconian quarantines and travel restrictions to keep large swaths of the population indoors for weeks, now appears as concerned about the risk of importing infections as it is about new domestic cases.

Beijing has confirmed 13 such cases so far, including eight Chinese nationals who worked at the same restaurant in the Lombardy region of Italy. Guangdong province and Shanghai said they would require all travellers, including Chinese nationals, coming from South Korea, Iran, Japan and Italy to be quarantined for two weeks.

Italian elders bear brunt

Italy's large elderly population poses a challenge in slowing the number of coronavirus deaths in Europe's worst-affected country, a health specialist has said.

The virus has killed 79 people in Italy, all aged between 63 and 95 with underlying serious illnesses.

The death toll, provided by officials last night, marked an increase of 18 in 24 hours. Twenty-three per cent of the Italian population is over 65, making it the oldest in the world after Japan.

"Italy is a country of old people," said Professor Massimo Galli, the director of infectious diseases at Sacco hospital in Milan. "The elderly with previous pathologies are notoriously numerous here."

"I think this could explain why we are seeing more serious cases of coronavirus here, which I repeat, in the vast majority of cases start mildly and cause few problems, especially in young people and certainly in children."

"Our life expectancy is among the highest in the world. But in a situation like this, old people are more at risk of a serious outcome." **Lorenzo Tondo and Angela Giuffrida**

More than 2,800 cases of Covid-19 have been confirmed across Europe

Italy 2,036

France 204

Germany 188

Spain 152

UK 51

Switzerland 47

Norway 32

Netherlands 24

Sweden 21

Austria 21

Belgium 13

Iceland 11

Others 61

Source: Johns Hopkins CSSE. Data at 15.53 yesterday. CSSE numbers rely on publicly available data from multiple sources, which do not always agree

Globally, the virus has killed more than 3,100 people and infected more than 90,000 in more than 60 countries, even as a clear shift in the crisis emerges, with nine times as many cases now recorded outside China as inside.

The most serious outbreaks are in South Korea, Italy, Iran and Japan, the WHO said.

In the South Korean capital of Seoul, drive-through virus testing centres began operating, with workers in white protective suits leaning into cars with mouth swabs, and troops being dispatched across the city to spray streets with disinfectant.

President Moon Jae-in said the country was now waging "war" on the virus and the government would inject \$25bn (£19.5bn) into measures to contain it, as well as fund clinics and aid for small businesses.

In Italy, Europe's worst-affected country, the death toll rose to 79 and the total infection count climbed to more than 2,500.

In other developments yesterday:

● Morocco, Andorra, Armenia, the Czech Republic, Iceland, Indonesia and Ukraine confirmed their first cases.

● Australia, which has 38 confirmed cases, said it would use a little-known biosecurity law to restrict the movements of people suspected of having the virus.

● In the US, which now has more than 100 cases, a man tested positive in New York state, bringing the total there to two. Six people have died in Washington state.

● Germany's confirmed cases rose to 188 yesterday from 157 on Monday afternoon; the Leipzig book fair was cancelled.

● The Swiss army confined all its soldiers to barracks after a case was discovered in their ranks.

● French health authorities reported a fourth death, after 191 confirmed cases, and President Emmanuel Macron announced the requisitioning of all face mask stocks and future production.

● Spain's confirmed cases rose to about 150 from about 120, while the number of cases in Sweden rose to 24 from 15.

News
Coronavirus

'I don't want your coronavirus':
Singaporean reports attack

Kevin Rawlinson and Ben Quinn

Police are investigating an alleged race-hate attack on a Singaporean student in London by a group of people who are said to have shouted about the coronavirus before beating him up.

Officers said they were looking into reports of an attack on Oxford Street at about 9.30pm last Monday, after Jonathan Mok, 23, shared pictures of his battered face in a Facebook post and wrote that one of the group tried to kick him in the head.
Mok wrote that he was walking past a group of men when he heard

one make a reference to the virus, and he stopped to look at them.
"All of a sudden, the first punch was swung at my face and took me by surprise. When I was still shocked by the first hit, the guy delivered the second sucker punch. The guy who tried to kick me then said: 'I don't want your coronavirus in my country,' before swinging another sucker punch at me, which resulted in my face exploding with blood (from my nose)..."
Mok said doctors had told him he had fractures to his face and may need to undergo reconstructive surgery.

Carney says Bank
will not stand
by as Fed cuts
US interest rates

Richard Partington
Julia Kollewe
Kalyeena Makortoff

US interest rates were slashed yesterday in an emergency move to protect the world's largest economy from the coronavirus outbreak.

The intervention by the Federal Reserve came as the G7 group of wealthy nations promised action to protect jobs and growth during the unfolding crisis. The Fed said it was cutting interest rates by half a percentage point to a target range of 1% to 1.25%.

Launching the emergency measure as a pre-emptive strike to protect the US economy, the central bank said: "The fundamentals of the US economy remain strong. However, the coronavirus poses evolving risks to economic activity."

Jerome Powell, the Fed chair, said: "Of course the ultimate solutions to this challenge will come from others, particularly health professionals. We can and will do our part, however, to keep the US economy strong as we meet this challenge."

Donald Trump has been calling for a cut to interest rates since long before the outbreak. But as the economic costs mount in a pivotal US election year, he said the Fed had not cut rates enough and should go further.

Powell said yesterday's emergency move was not in response to the president's pressure. "We are never going to consider any political considerations whatsoever," he said.

Financial markets around the world rallied, bouncing back after the worst week for stocks since the financial crisis in anticipation of a massive coordinated stimulus to protect the global economy. The FTSE 100 closed yesterday up about 1% at 6,718.20. But Wall Street slumped after a rebound on Monday, and was down 600 points by mid-afternoon in New York.

Speaking before the emergency move by the Fed, Mark Carney, the governor of the Bank of England, said Threadneedle Street stood ready to cut UK interest rates if the British economy required it.

In his final hearing before the Treasury committee before standing down as governor on 15 March, Carney said the fallout in Britain could include an "economic shock that could prove large but will ultimately be temporary".

He added: "The Bank will take all necessary steps to support the UK economy and the financial system."

Saying that lines of communication were open with other central banks, Carney said the Bank's rate-setting monetary policy committee (MPC) met on Monday and that it was still "assessing the economic impacts and considering the policy implications of various different scenarios".

The next MPC rate decision is due on 26 March. But economists at the Japanese bank Nomura said they expected an emergency cut before the end of the week.

Threadneedle Street has limited room to cut borrowing costs because interest rates are at 0.75%. There are also growing expectations that the chancellor, Rishi Sunak, will use next week's budget to announce financial support to try to smooth the economic impact from the coronavirus.

The mounting response comes as the outbreak causes widespread alarm. The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has said global economic growth for 2020 could be cut in half.

UK banks are starting to offer emergency financing to businesses that are showing signs of strain. Barclays, RBS and Santander have sent messages to thousands of firms to check whether factory disruption in China has put their supply chains and cash flows at risk.

Barclays has extended its first batch of overdrafts and short-term loans, while the Guardian understands RBS is contacting about 5,000 of its large and small business customers to offer similar support.

Twitter told its staff to work from home in response to the outbreak. It has made remote working mandatory for staff in Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea and said it was "strongly encouraging" its global workforce of 5,000 employees to do the same.

In the UK, the impact of the outbreak was reflected in company statements and updates on consumer behaviour. Kantar, the data company, said consumers were stockpiling hand sanitiser, with sales up 225% last month.

The British insurer Direct Line said it had received £1m of travel insurance claims relating to the outbreak. It will pay out for cancellation or curtailment of trips to places such as China, South Korea and northern Italy, if they were booked before the government advised against travel.

'The Bank of England will take all necessary steps to support the UK economy and the financial system'
Mark Carney
Bank of England chief

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Representative Example	Duration of Agreement	Upfront Cost	Monthly Device Payment	Credit Amount	Total Amount Payable	Interest Rate	Representative APR	Device Cash Price	Airtime Plan until March 2021	Airtime Plan April 2021 - March 2022	Airtime Plan April 2022 - March 2023
Apple iPhone 11 64GB	36 Months	£49.99	£18.95	£682.01	£732	0%	0%	£732	£19	£19 + RPI% announced in Feb 2021 = Price A	Price A + RPI% announced in Feb 2022

Each year your Airtime Plan will be adjusted on your April bill by the RPI rate of inflation announced in the preceding Feb. See o2.co.uk/prices. iPhone 11 (64GB) O2 Refresh tariffs start at 1GB of data for £37.95 per month which consists of a £18.95 Device Plan for 36 months and a £19 monthly rolling Airtime Plan. O2 Refresh custom plans: Direct purchases only. Pay the cash price for your device or spread the cost over 3 to 36 months (excludes dongles). The device cost will be the same whatever you choose. There may be an upfront cost. You need a monthly rolling Airtime Plan as long as you have a Device Plan. Pay off your Device Plan at any time and you can choose to keep your Airtime Plan, upgrade, or leave. If your Airtime Plan ends for any reason you will need to pay your Device Plan in full. Device subject to availability. 0% APR. Finance subject to status and credit checks. 18+. Direct Debit. Credit provided by Telefonica UK Ltd, SL1 4DX. Telefonica UK is authorised and regulated by the FCA for consumer credit and insurance. Terms apply, see o2.co.uk/terms.



◀ Mask-clad people with an installation of the Olympic rings in Tokyo last week. The Games are scheduled to begin on 24 July

PHOTOGRAPH: CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/AFP/GETTY

'I'd like to encourage all the athletes to continue with their preparations with great confidence'

Thomas Bach
IOC president



Prepare 'with full steam': Olympic chiefs talk down fears of delay to Tokyo Games

Sachin Nakrani

The International Olympic Committee has sought to play down fears of Tokyo 2020 being delayed because of the coronavirus, insisting the Games will go ahead as scheduled.

Speaking in Lausanne yesterday, the IOC president, Thomas Bach, insisted that athletes should continue their preparations "with great confidence".

Bach's address followed a meeting of the organisation's executive board at which it was decided that the IOC remains committed to holding the Olympics between 24 July and 9 August, something that had been in doubt following the spread of Covid-19. There are 90,000 cases and more than 3,000 deaths confirmed globally.

Speculation of a delay had mounted further when Japan's Olympic minister, Seiko Hashimoto, said the Games could be moved to the end of the year because of coronavirus while speaking in the national parliament yesterday morning, leading to the IOC releasing a statement insisting it was expected to proceed according to schedule.

"The International Olympic Committee executive board today expressed its full commitment to the success of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, taking place from 24 July to 9 August 2020," a statement

said. "The IOC EB heard a report on all the measures taken so far to address the coronavirus situation, which was followed by a comprehensive discussion. A joint taskforce had already been created in mid-February, involving the IOC, Tokyo 2020, the host city of Tokyo, the government of Japan and the World Health Organization.

"The IOC will continue to follow the advice of WHO, as the leading United Nations agency on this topic."

Bach largely reiterated that message when he spoke later but did not say during a statement that lasted more than two minutes that the Games would start on 24 July. This would suggest he was factoring in some leeway in case the virus spreads to such an extent that a delay to the Olympics becomes unavoidable.

"Following a very comprehensive discussion in the executive board, the IOC remains fully committed to the success of the Olympic Games," said Bach. "I would like to encourage all the athletes to continue with their preparations for the Olympic Games with great confidence and with full steam."

In a response to a question in Japan's parliament, Hashimoto had insisted everything was being done to "ensure the Games go ahead as planned", but that the organising committee's agreement with the IOC did allow for the event to be moved. "The contract calls for the Games to be held within 2020.

Avoid high fives with fans, NBA tells players

Professional basketball players in the US have been told to avoid giving fans high-fives and avoid taking any item to autograph, in the NBA's latest response to the coronavirus outbreak.

In a memo sent to teams on Sunday, the league made 10 recommendations to players hoping to reduce their risks of contracting the virus. These included not taking items such as pens, markers, balls and jerseys from autograph-hunters.

The NBA told teams that it was consulting infectious disease experts, including at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and researchers at Columbia University in New York.

"We are also in regular communication with each other, NBA teams including team physicians and athletic trainers, other professional sports leagues, and of course, many of you," the league wrote in its memo.

Several players are already heeding the advice. CJ McCollum, of the Portland Trail Blazers, tweeted: "I am officially taking a break from signing autographs until further notice."

"Corona," said the New York

Knicks' Bobby Portis, as he offered fist-bump greetings before his team took on the Houston Rockets on Monday night.

AP Miami



Washington player Rui Hachimura high-fives Bradley Beal

That could be interpreted as allowing a postponement," she said.

Meanwhile, the Japan Para Wheelchair Rugby Championship, scheduled to take place on 12-15 March and a test event for the Paralympic Games, was cancelled because of the outbreak. "Tokyo 2020 nevertheless will carry out the wheelchair rugby test event in some form in April, after ensuring a safe and secure environment," said a statement from Tokyo 2020's organising committee.

A number of high-profile sporting events have already been cancelled or postponed as a result of coronavirus, including the 2020 World Indoor Athletics Championships and the Chinese Grand Prix, while the final two stages of cycling's UAE Tour were also cancelled last week.

The four-time Tour de France winner Chris Froome and the veteran sprinter Mark Cavendish were among the cyclists tested for the virus, having been confined to their rooms at an Abu Dhabi hotel as part of a process that led to 167 people at the event being put into quarantine - all of whom have since returned negative tests.

However, the French teams Cofidis and Groupama-FDJ, the United Arab Emirates team and Russian Gazprom team remain under quarantine.

Thierry Vittu, the Cofidis president, accused the UCI, the cycling world governing body, of treating riders like "plague victims".

He said: "We're being held against our will in a place we didn't choose and for an unknown length of time."

The UCI said: "We've directly contacted government authorities and hopefully riders and staff will be able to leave the country today."

Cummings accused of fostering culture of bullying in Whitehall

Rajeev Syal
Heather Stewart

The prime minister's key aide Dominic Cummings has been accused of fostering a culture of bullying in Whitehall as details resurfaced of a case in which he allegedly intimidated a mandarin who received a pay-off.

The senior civil servant received about £25,000 in January 2013 after a lengthy grievance procedure involving Cummings, who was then special adviser to Michael Gove.

The story re-emerged after a torrid week for relations between civil servants and the government. Priti Patel, the home secretary, has been named in a legal action being brought against the government by her former permanent secretary, Sir Philip Rutnam, accusing her of bullying and intimidating staff. Boris Johnson has launched a cabinet inquiry into claims that she intimidated staff in three departments.

It emerged on Monday that another former aide to Patel received a £25,000 government payout after a threatened lawsuit in which Patel was named.

Patel is accused of shouting at the aide to "get lost" and "get out of her face".

Labour has accused Cummings and Gove of being behind a culture of intimidation of civil servants following Rutnam's allegations of bullying and intimidation against Patel. It called for the inquiry into the home secretary to be "genuinely independent".

Angela Rayner, shadow education secretary, said: "It is clear Cummings and Gove had a concerning track record at the Department for Education (DfE), yet now they have positions of responsibility over the whole system."

"In light of this week's events, it's more important than ever that we get full disclosure of the facts. No inquiry will be credible without complete transparency, not just on one case but the whole culture of this government."

Cummings was an adviser to Gove in the DfE in 2012 when accused, along with a colleague, of bullying the senior aide. A departmental investigation cleared both men, and said no disciplinary action was necessary, but the final judgment made clear that their conduct had on occasions fallen short and that their behaviour "had been

Rutnam starts legal action

Sir Philip Rutnam, the senior civil servant who resigned on Saturday claiming he was bullied and forced from office, has begun legal action against the government over his treatment by Priti Patel, his union has told the Guardian.

Legal documents name the home secretary, the Home Office and the Cabinet Office as respondents, the FDA said. It would mean Patel will be expected to give evidence under oath if the case comes to tribunal.

The development comes as Patel has expressed her "regret" at the decision of the top civil servant at the Home Office to quit, and urged staff in the department to come together as "one team".

Rutnam announced at the weekend that he was standing down as permanent secretary, claiming constructive dismissal and accusing Patel of bullying her subordinates.

Patel has denied any allegations of wrongdoing. **Rajeev Syal**

perceived as intimidating". The civil servant lodged a case with a tribunal, the Observer first disclosed, where the allegations would have been heard in public, but negotiations led to an agreed financial settlement.

Rutnam quit on Saturday after accusing Patel of orchestrating a "vicious" campaign against him, of lying about her involvement in it and of creating a climate of fear.

It emerged on Monday that Patel was accused of shouting at a former aide with "unprovoked aggression" before removing that person from her job, the BBC said. The aide received a £25,000 government payout after a threatened lawsuit in which Patel was named, the report said.

The legal correspondence alleges that the civil servant took an overdose of prescription medicine shortly after the incident in October 2015, in which Patel was accused of shouting at her.

A spokesperson for Patel said: "The home secretary completely rejects all allegations made against her."

In further indication of tensions No 10 confirmed that the special adviser who confronted Cummings over his "unkindness" at a recent meeting was leaving the government. Lynn Davidson, an aide to the defence secretary, Ben Wallace, was asked to move post as part of a special advisers' reshuffle, in February, government insiders said - before she publicly upbraided Cummings over his treatment of aides.



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▼ Hyun Ji Shin, Gigi Hadid and Mona Tougaard on the catwalk at Chanel's Paris fashion week show
PHOTOGRAPH: PETER WHITE/GETTY



New Romantics

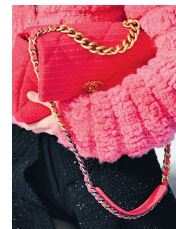
Soft side of Chanel

Hannah Marriott
Fashion editor

For the runway show, no frame. I don't like framing," said Chanel's artistic director, Virginie Viard, before the brand's autumn/winter 2020 fashion show in Paris. It was quite a statement of intent given the megabrand's decades-long ownership of the concept of fashion show as theatrical blockbuster.

So yesterday, there was no rocket taking off in the middle of the catwalk (2017); no supermarket complete with boxes of Chanel-branded ketchup bottles (2014). Instead, models walked against a glossy white set, with layers of curvy seating trimmed with black, recalling a map's contour lines.

Viard, Karl Lagerfeld's long-term right-hand woman, has taken a softer, subtler approach since taking over after the legendary designer's death just over a year ago. This



▲ Details in Viard's Chanel collection showed hints of coral pink on mostly monochrome looks and accessories

collection continued in that vein, throwing the focus on to more than 70 mainly monochrome looks, with occasional hints of coral pink. Current trends were addressed: puffy sleeves, Wolf Hall necklines and thigh-high splits in midi skirts were all present.

Models came two or three abreast at times. Gigi Hadid walked arm in arm between two other models, a move which felt protective given her altercation last season with a catwalk gatecrasher.

Trousers came with poppers at the side, fanning open to display footwear described in press notes as "seven-league boots" - which according to Charles Perrault's fairytales allow wearers to traverse seven leagues a step - inspired by a pair once worn by Lagerfeld.

There was a New Romantic mood in those piratey, Adam Ant-ish boots and ruffle-fronted shirts; Madonna and Boy George were evoked in the liberal use of crucifixes.

Earlier yesterday Gucci cancelled its cruise show, which had been due to take place in San Francisco on 18 May, in response to "the ongoing uncertainty prompted by the coronavirus outbreak," the company said. Tokyo fashion week, which had been set for 16-21 March, has also been cancelled. Prada has postponed its 21 May cruise show, due to take place in Tokyo.



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Society 'failing young over violence, drugs and mental health'

Robert Booth

Social affairs correspondent

Rising violence, drug use and mental health problems among young people in England mean society is in danger of failing a generation, children's doctors have warned.

English teenagers are increasingly likely to be injured in youth violence and the UK is lagging behind other European countries on measures including infant mortality, according to UK-wide research into the state of child health by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

The number of children in poverty, in child protection plans and being "looked after" has increased since 2017, and on measures including the prevalence of mental health issues among five to 15-year-olds, child health has stalled or reversed, the study warns.

"It's not a pretty sight," said the president of the college, Prof Russell Viner. "On many vital measures we risk lagging behind other European countries ... We're in danger of failing a generation if we don't turn this situation around. The government has made welcome commitments on childhood obesity and young people's mental health but we need to see delivery in these and other areas."

Separate figures from Childline published simultaneously revealed that in 2018-19, 653 children under 11 contacted its number with suicidal thoughts and feelings - an increase of 87% since 2015-16. It delivered 24,447 counselling sessions to young people overwhelmed by a sense of despair, an increase of a quarter over three years.

Esther Rantzen, Childline's founder, said that when she launched

the charity in 1986 most calls related to pain caused by someone else, including abuse, bullying or neglect. "It is deeply disturbing we have reached a point where, on average, 67 children a day are receiving help for suicidal thoughts and feelings."

The royal college study claims to be the largest ever compilation of data on the health of babies, children and young people in the UK. It found the health of children who live in deprived areas is largely worse than those in better off places and that inequalities have widened since 2017. Across the UK more children are undertaking unpaid care work, with the biggest increase in Scotland.

The college said the slide in conditions was something rarely seen in developed countries and blamed deep cuts to local authority budgets.

Responding to the Royal college's report, the NSPCC child protection charity said it was "scandalous that progress in children's health is not improving and shameful that the most disadvantaged are seeing the biggest retreat".

A Department of Health and Social Care spokesperson said: "We want every child to have the best start in life, regardless of their background, and tackling health inequalities is a priority for the government."

The report includes some signs of hope: the treatment of chronic medical conditions including asthma, diabetes and epilepsy is improving. Children have healthier teeth in England, Wales and Scotland and smoking and drinking alcohol is falling among children across England and Scotland, while teenage pregnancies are falling across all four home nations. However, on infant mortality the UK places 23rd out of 27 European countries.

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVE BENETT/GETTY IMAGES



▲ From top: & Juliet at the Shaftesbury theatre; Andrew Scott as a washed-up matinee idol in Noël Coward's

Present Laughter; Phoebe Waller-Bridge in Fleabag; Hayley Atwell in Henrik Ibsen's Rosmersholm



PHOTOGRAPH: JOHAN PERSSON

Olivier awards put Fleabag stars back in the limelight

Chris Wiegand

Fleabag stars Phoebe Waller-Bridge and Andrew Scott are in the running for prizes at this year's Olivier awards.

Nominations include best actress for Waller-Bridge for her Fleabag monologue in a sold-out West End season, and best actor for Scott for his performance in Noël Coward's Present Laughter at the Old Vic. Waller-Bridge received a second nomination for Fleabag, for best entertainment or comedy play.

The bold jukebox musical & Juliet has nine nominations: acting nods for David Bedella, Cassidy Janson and Miriam-Teak Lee, and for best new musical, best original score or new orchestration, best theatre choreographer, and best lighting, set and costume designs. For best new musical, it is up against Amélie, Waitress and Dear Evan Hansen.

Two young performers in their West End debuts feature in the best actor in a musical category: Sam Tutty as Evan Hansen, and Jac Yarrow in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Charlie Stemp is nominated for Mary Poppins, and Andy Nyman for Fiddler on the Roof, which picked up eight nominations including best director for Trevor Nunn and best actress in a musical for Judy Kuhn.

Revivals of Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman and Henrik Ibsen's Rosmersholm picked up five nominations each, including best actor for Wendell Pierce as Miller's Willy Loman and best actress for Sharon D Clarke, who plays his wife, Linda. Hayley Atwell (Rosmersholm) and Juliet Stevenson (The Doctor) are also nominated for best actress, and Toby Jones (Uncle Vanya) and James McAvo (Cyrano de Bergerac) for best actor.

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Tories told to distance UK from climate deniers



Fiona Harvey

Environment correspondent

Boris Johnson should publicly declare climate deniers wrong, campaigners have urged, to secure the UK's standing in this year's vital UN climate talks.

Climate deniers with links to the Conservative party are preparing for a new battle as the UK leaves Europe, hoping that Johnson's government will be more amenable to delaying and watering down green measures.

Today the European Union sets out its first ever climate law, the long-awaited centrepiece of the European Green Deal, which is designed to prepare the EU economy for dealing with the climate emergency.

It would enshrine a 2050 net-zero emissions target in law and empower Brussels to take governments to court if they failed to comply. But Johnson has yet to outline a strategy for meeting the UK's target of net zero by 2050, giving the advocates of delay and distraction everything to play for.

The Tory party retains links with prominent climate deniers and organisations that deny the climate crisis or actively undermine climate policies, such as the Global Warming Policy Foundation, a body set up by the former Tory chancellor Nigel Lawson.

"The GWPF have shown themselves to be tremendous opportunists", said



Bob Ward, at the London School of Economics. He said the GWPF had been fundraising heavily in the US and pushing its position across Whitehall in a campaign to influence the Johnson government.

"I expect that as the economy continues to take a hit from Brexit that the GWPF will attempt to mislead policymakers into believing the cause is climate policy."

Sir Michael Hintze, a hedge fund billionaire who has long been a major Tory donor, is understood to fund the GWPF, which does not have to disclose its funding, and to have supported Priti

'The voices of denial or delay are scrabbling to stay relevant'

Alasdair Cameron
Friends of the Earth

Patel, Dominic Raab and Andrea Leadson, among other leading Tories.

Matt Hancock has taken donations from fossil fuel interests such as Ian Taylor, of the oil trader Vitol, while Michael Gove and Liz Truss have links to the American Enterprise Institute, which lobbies against climate action.

There is no suggestion of wrongdoing by the Tory MPs but experts have questioned accepting funds from individuals with fossil fuel interests or links to climate-denial organisations.

Shaun Spiers, of the Green Alliance thinktank, said: "Well-connected climate sceptics must be called out. "We have seen the damage that well-funded rightwing campaigns against climate action have done in the US, Australia and Brazil," he said. "With the party officially recognising the seriousness of the climate emergency, it should disassociate itself from the deniers."

November's UN Cop26 climate talks are the most important since the 2015

▼ Boris Johnson launching this autumn's Cop26 climate summit. The UK's credibility is at stake, experts say

PHOTOGRAPH: JEREMY SELWYN/WPA/GETTY

Packham starts legal challenge over carbon impact of HS2

Gwyn Topham

A fresh legal challenge to HS2 has been launched by the naturalist and broadcaster Chris Packham, arguing that the decision to approve the high-speed rail network failed to take account of its carbon emissions and climate impact.

Packham and the law firm Leigh Day said the HS2 review by Douglas Oakervee, whose advice to proceed with the project in full was followed by Boris Johnson last month, was "compromised, incomplete and flawed".

The crowdfunded challenge follows an appeal court ruling on Heathrow that said the government's planning statement allowing a third runway at the airport was unlawful as it did not take the Paris accord into account.

Packham will likewise argue that Oakervee failed to quantify and address the full impact of HS2's likely carbon emissions. The initial environmental statement for HS2 was made in 2013, before the UK signed the Paris accord and pledged to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

"Every important policy decision should now have the future of our environment at the forefront," he said.

"Essential submissions regarding environmental concerns [over HS2] were ignored ... [thus] the Oakervee review is compromised, incomplete and flawed and thus the decision to proceed based upon it is unlawful."

Tom Short, at Leigh Day, said: "The law, and moral logic, require the government to think again."

The Department for Transport said it would respond in due course.

Environmentalists say the line will damage or destroy almost 700 wildlife sites, including more than 100 ancient woodlands. HS2 disputes the figure and says most will stay intact.

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Music review Pop’s biggest new star perfectly blends humour and heartbreak

Lewis Capaldi
Apollo, Manchester
★★★★☆

Dave Simpson

As Lewis Capaldi is fond of observing, he is the last person you would expect to become the biggest new pop star in the country. With his satin tour jacket and bedraggled mousy hair, the 23-year-old looks as if he stumbled across a picture of the 1980s darts legend Eric Bristow and declared: “That’s the image!”

His stage banter includes telling the audience: “I’ve got the shits. I’m going to try and get through the show without pooing my pants.” Titling last year’s debut *Divinely Uninspired to a Hellish Extent* didn’t

stop the album – and mammoth single *Someone You Loved* – becoming 2019’s biggest seller.

The Scot was apparently discovered by his manager after uploading songs to SoundCloud, a heartwarming tale of DIY that belies the teams of co-songwriters (including the crack production trio TMS) behind his smashes.

Which doesn’t make Capaldi any less genuine or funny, to the point that he could cut it as a comic if he weren’t making such a fine fist of being a fantastic, characterful pop star.

It takes him just two numbers to trigger screaming Capaldimania. The waving arms and crowd singalongs are reminiscent of a cup final, or how 1970s punters remember gigs by Rod Stewart and the Faces.

As with young Sir Roderick, there is a chasm between Capaldi’s boozy, swearsy, jokey persona and the hurting soul in song. He dismisses his breakup anthems as “fucking



▲ Lewis Capaldi on stage at the Manchester Apollo: each tune is tailored to his epic, Joe Cocker bellow
PHOTOGRAPH: SHIRLAINE FORREST/WIREIMAGE

It takes him just two numbers to trigger screaming Capaldimania, the crowd reminiscent of a cup final

depressing”, but the sadder they are, the louder the crowd sings with him. Each tune is tailored to his epic, Joe Cocker bellow. Hollywood perfectly skewers the feeling when a relationship is dying, while Bruises dissects the aftermath.

Someone You Loved is raw and real – “I let my guard down and then you pulled the rug, I was getting kinda used to being someone you loved”. The song’s devastated heartbreak isn’t at all diminished by the singer leading into it by wearing a pair of comedy plastic sunglasses, to look as goofy as he can.

At SSE Hydro, Glasgow, 5-6 March, then on UK tour until 15 March

OUP urged to fix ‘sexist’ entries in dictionaries

Alison Flood

The leaders of Women’s Aid and the Women’s Equality party are among the signatories to an open letter calling on Oxford University Press to change “sexist” definitions of the word woman in its dictionaries.

The letter points out that some Oxford Dictionaries definitions of the word include synonyms such as “bitch” and “maid”, and says derogatory and sexist examples of usage include: “God, woman. Will you just listen?” The definitions for “man”, meanwhile, include “a person with the qualities associated with males, such as bravery, spirit, or toughness”.

The letter is the latest move in a campaign launched last year by Maria Beatrice Giovanardi, whose petition calling for a change to the dictionary’s definition of woman has been signed by more than 30,000 people.

OUP said it had reviewed its entries for terms for women and girls and changes would be “visible across various platforms in the next few weeks”.

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Women not given pain relief during childbirth

← Continued from page 1

rather than an integral part of maternity care, and women and their families can suffer as a result.

“Staffing shortages may be an issue but we also know women may experience gatekeeping by healthcare professionals and be told labour ‘is meant to be hard work’,” she added.

Maureen Treadwell, from the Birth Trauma Association, welcomed the findings. “Inadequate epidural services and misinformation about risks is simply inexcusable. It is both inhumane and discriminatory.”

Epidural blocks are pain-relieving spinal injections that must be given by an anaesthetist in an obstetric unit. They are effective but not risk-free. Among other risks, they can lead to a drop in blood pressure.

NHS guidelines say women in labour can ask for epidurals at any time and should be given information and support to choose what is



◀ NHS guidelines say women in labour can ask for epidurals at any time. They must be given by an anaesthetist in an obstetric unit
PHOTOGRAPH: LOIC VENANCE/AFP/GETTY

right for them. But in January, a Sunday Telegraph investigation claimed some women were being denied epidurals because of a “cult of natural childbirth” in some trusts.

Dr David Bogod, a council member of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, said midwives sometimes wrongly told women there was a narrow window in which they could have an epidural: when the cervix was between 4cm and 6cm dilated. “But it’s never too early and never too late, if that’s what a woman wants,” he said.

“There’s reasonable, anecdotal evidence that some midwives will use the excuse that an anaesthetist isn’t available if they themselves feel an epidural isn’t appropriate for the woman based on their own beliefs around intervention-free births.”

He said the most common reason for women to be denied an epidural was a drastic national shortage of midwives – the NHS in England is short of the equivalent of 2,500 midwives.

Bogod pointed to the scandals at Telford’s Princess Royal and the Royal

Shrewsbury hospitals, and Morecambe Bay, where babies and mothers died preventable deaths partly because midwives had a focus on making women giving birth without medical intervention. “I’m not saying it’s common or regular but there are anecdotal cases,” he said. “But it’s completely unacceptable.”

Gill Walton from the Royal College of Midwives said: “Nice guidelines should be followed. Women should get pain relief when they ask. They should be making choices about their

pain relief armed with the information they need to make an informed choice.” Walton, however, said it was a lack of anaesthetists that sometimes led to delays in epidurals being administered.

A Care Quality Commission survey of women’s experiences of maternity care, published in January, found that epidural use in England has increased over the past three years from 28% to 31%. But the survey found that some women did not receive pain relief when they asked for it: 3% of women whose pain relief choice changed reported that an anaesthetist was not available to provide their chosen pain relief and 4% responded that they were not told why they could not have their chosen pain relief.

The debate over medicalised births is long-running. The RCM abandoned its normal birth campaign in 2017 amid concerns it may have put women at risk. Earlier this month University Hospitals Bristol NHS trust was criticised for advising pregnant women to avoid epidurals. After the advice was reported in the media, the trust deleted the advice from its website and accepted it was “outdated”.

Pat O’Brien, of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, said attitudes had changed “drastically” in the last few years. “Ten years ago, you would often see it,” he said. “But there has been a real culture shift in the last few years.”



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Artist on 'never-ending' prison term had sudden death syndrome in cell

Jamie Grierson

Home affairs correspondent

An artist was suffering from deteriorating mental health and a prison term she feared would never end when she died alone in her cell from sudden death syndrome, an inquest concluded yesterday.

Charlotte Nokes, 38, was on suicide watch at Peterborough prison when she died in July 2016. The prison is run by the outsourcing firm Sodexo.

Nokes, who had been offered a scholarship at Central Saint Martins art school in London, was struggling with the indeterminate term of her sentence, known as an imprisonment for public protection (IPP).

IPP sentences, which were abolished in 2012 after the European court of human rights deemed them unlawful, handed offenders a minimum jail tariff but no maximum.

Nokes, who was diagnosed with a personality disorder, had been given

a minimum term of 15 months for attempted robbery and possession of a bladed weapon. But at the time of her death she had been in prison for eight and a half years, the inquest heard.

Her family were concerned the medication she was receiving to treat her worsening mental health, exacerbated by the IPP sentence, contributed to her death. But the inquest heard a postmortem was unable to establish a cause of death and appropriate checks to monitor the side effects of medication had taken place.

Yesterday, the jurors at the inquest in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, concluded Nokes died of natural causes, namely sudden arrhythmic death syndrome (SADS).

They heard from her father, as well as a psychologist who treated her and a forensic psychiatrist with expert knowledge of mental health in prisons, that the IPP sentence had significantly affected her mental health.

Dr Dinesh Maganty, a consultant forensic psychiatrist, said Nokes was



▼ Charlotte Nokes had been handed a minimum of 15-month jail term but was still in prison eight and a half years later when she died in July 2016

caught in a "perfect storm", adding: "[When] individuals with a personality disorder and depression and anxiety, [are] incarcerated the sense of hope is gone, and for treatment of a personality disorder, for psychological treatment, the provision for a sense of hope is key."

"That's very difficult, almost impossible when you're on an IPP sentence as there's a sense of injustice over hanging you and no sense of hope."

Maganty said the rate of death on those serving IPP sentences was disproportionately high "because of this loss of this sense of hope".

Nicky Asplin, the principal counselling psychologist who had been

working with Nokes in the months before she died, said that during a therapy session held shortly before her death, Nokes expressed "a lot of frustration at the never-ending sentence of an IPP prison sentence".

Asplin said she had raised concerns with the National Offender Management Service, now the Prison and Probation Service, about the impact of the sentence on Nokes.

"I expressed my concern that she was significantly over-tariff and could we move this forward," Asplin said.

Nokes's father, Steven, told the inquest his daughter "almost always mentioned her IPP sentence".

"It was a source of great distress for

her," he said. "She would say things like: 'Dad, I don't think you understand the sentence, it's like a death sentence' and 'I could be in here for the rest of my life.'"

Charlotte Nokes, from Hayling Island, Hampshire, was subject to ACCT (assessment, care in custody and teamwork), a care planning process for prisoners identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm. She was on a mix of drugs including medication for anxiety, antidepressants, a treatment for acute mania and another to control tremors caused by anti-psychotic medication, the inquest heard.

She was observed on more than one occasion to be "over-sedated" with slurred speech, the inquest heard.

Nokes was found unresponsive in her cell at 8.55am on 23 July 2016 and was pronounced dead at the scene, the jury was told.

Dr Martin Goddard, who conducted the postmortem examination, told the inquest he was unable to record a cause of death, ruling out third-party involvement, a toxic cause of death such as a drug overdose. He also said there were no obvious underlying natural causes. He told the jury it was possible she had died from SADS, which is only recorded in between 1% and 5% of deaths at inquests.

"I apologise to the family that I've been unable to give them peace of mind," he said, "but ... there is nothing to suggest it was an unnatural death."

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Grenfell architect says he did not read building regulations on cladding

Robert Booth

Social affairs correspondent

The architect of the Grenfell Tower refurbishment has admitted he did not read building regulations aimed at preventing cladding fires, and had no idea that panels used to insulate buildings could be combustible.

Bruce Sounes, the project architect on the council block, told the public inquiry into the disaster, in which 72 people died, that he did not know aluminium panels could melt and spread flames. He also said he had no idea cladding had previously caught fire on buildings in the UK and Dubai, including at Lakanal House in Southwark in 2009, where six people died.

Under cross-examination by Kate Grange QC, counsel to the inquiry, Sounes admitted that during the Grenfell Tower project he did not familiarise himself with regulations demanding external walls must adequately resist the spread of fire.

As a result he did not see a diagram in building regulations guidance showing how external wall systems on buildings of different heights must meet safety rules, information about a cladding fire at the Garnock Court housing block in Scotland and a diagram showing how fires could spread in high-rise apartment buildings.

He said he had “no knowledge” of rapid fire spread and had not read regulatory guidance about how to design cavity barriers, features which were intended to stop fire spread and which failed at Grenfell.

Nevertheless, his firm, Studio E Architects, had included in a list of services to its client a promise to “ensure that all designs comply with the relevant statutory requirements”.

Sounes said the council building control department was responsible for checking compliance and expert consultants were expected to advise.

The inquiry also heard that Studio E manipulated its fees to avoid the contract being put out to open tender.

▼ The inquiry is examining the fire that killed 72 people at Grenfell Tower, a council high-rise in London

PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE PARSONS/PA



Sounes said that, at the request of the tower's landlord, Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation, he deferred charging some fees so the threshold that would have obliged the client on the council-owned block to issue an open tender was not met.

Under EU procurement rules, known as OJEU, which applied at the time, public works above a certain threshold have to be put out to open tender. Studio E has already admitted that it would not have been selected for the job in competition because it lacked experience in high-rise housing or over-cladding works.

Neil Crawford, the Studio E designer who was the day-to-day contact for the contractor, was not a qualified architect, and Sounes, the lead architect, had not worked on a high-rise and had no experience with polyethylene composite materials as a working architect.

The building caught fire on the fourth floor on 14 June 2017 and a blaze spread to the 24th floor in less than half an hour through the cladding system that the architects had helped to design. The tenant management organisation (TMO) was set up by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to run the property.

The inquiry was shown a 24 July 2012 project meeting note written by Sounes saying that “the TMO would like ... the total fee up until stage D [a design phase] not exceeding £174k which is the OJEU threshold for requiring work to be tendered. This will probably mean deferring some fees.”

Three days later Sounes proposed to Mark Anderson, the director of assets and regeneration at the TMO, “a 50% deferment of all stage D fees to keep the total stage D fee below £174k”.

The inquiry had earlier heard that in May 2012 when the consultants were told that they were working on the job, Anderson had stressed: “We have a project to deliver within a very tight timescale and an even tighter budget.”

Under cross-examination by Grange, Sounes confirmed that at the time, none of the Studio E architects had experience of over-cladding projects.

The chairman of the inquiry, Sir Martin Moore-Bick, asked Sounes: “Did you ever suggest to the TMO that because of the level of fees it ought to go out to tender?”

Sounes replied: “I’m afraid I don’t have the insight on the OJEU rules to take a view on what ought to have happened,” adding he did not know who in the TMO made the decision.

By December 2012 Studio E had stopped invoicing because it had reached the OJEU threshold.

The inquiry continues.

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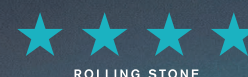
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IN CINEMAS NOW



New domestic abuse bill failing children, BAME women and migrants, charities say

Jamie Grierson

Home affairs correspondent

Children and migrant women are being overlooked by new laws designed to protect victims and punish perpetrators of domestic violence, charities have said.

The long-awaited domestic abuse bill was introduced in the Commons yesterday for its first reading, after having been delayed by Boris Johnson's decision to prorogue parliament and hold an election last year.

Besides the legislation, the government has started a review into what support can be provided to migrant victims of domestic abuse.

The legislation has been broadly welcomed by women's rights campaigners and domestic abuse charities. However, some groups

are concerned the laws do not go far enough in helping children, as well as migrant or black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) women.

The Step Up Migrant Women coalition, comprising more than 40 BAME specialist frontline services and migrant and human rights organisations, welcomed the bill but said it risked leaving behind migrant and BAME women who have been abused.

It said abused women with insecure immigration status often did not seek help from the police for fear of being reported to the Home Office and detained, deported or made destitute. It added that migrant women were predominantly barred from refuges and denied a safe place to sleep because they did not have access to public funds.

Gisela Valle, the director of the Latin American Women's Rights Service,

said: "By neglecting to address the barriers experienced by migrant victims, the bill falls short of realising the government's stated goals of protecting victims and tackling crime."

"All victims, regardless of their immigration status, must be able to report to the police safely and without fear, otherwise they cannot be protected, and their abusers will not be held accountable."

"We are disappointed that migrant survivors are once again overlooked in this bill, in spite of the recommendations made last year by the parliamentary joint committee on the draft domestic abuse bill to establish a firewall to separate reporting of a crime and access to support from immigration control."

Marchu Girma, the deputy director of Women for Refugee Women, said: "Women with insecure immigration

status are more vulnerable to abuse and yet they are unable to report violence and seek justice without fear because there is no separation of immigration enforcement from police response to victims of crime."

She said the bill "should ensure all women, including migrant women, are

'Those with insecure immigration status are more vulnerable to abuse, and yet these women are unable to report it'

Marchu Girma

Women for Refugee Women

able to report safely and are protected when they report abuse and not penalised because of their immigration status".

The government described the bill as the "most comprehensive package ever to tackle this horrendous crime", saying the "enhanced" proposals would go even further to support and protect victims and punish perpetrators and had been widely supported by charities, MPs and law enforcement.

Action for Children estimates tens of thousands of children have been at risk of domestic abuse since the general election. The charity's director of policy and campaigns, Imran Hussain, said it was vital the bill recognised a child as an "innocent victim and not just a witness".

Emily Hilton, a senior policy officer at the NSPCC, said the government was missing a "landmark opportunity" to make a difference. She said: "It is extremely disappointing that the bill in its current form fails to protect children from the devastating impact of living with domestic abuse, leaving thousands at continued risk because the help they deserve is not in place."



William and Kate start Ireland visit at independence memorial

Rory Carroll

Ireland correspondent

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have started their first official visit to Ireland by laying a wreath at a memorial to those who died for Irish independence over the centuries.

Prince William and Kate performed the ritual at the Garden of

Remembrance in Dublin yesterday, following in the footsteps of the Queen, who enchanted her hosts with the historic gesture in 2011.

The couple said they hoped the visit would "build on the theme of remembrance and reconciliation".

Diplomats on both sides hope the visit will apply balm to Anglo-Irish ties frayed by Brexit and uncertainty over the border with Northern Ireland.

After landing at Dublin airport on a commercial flight, the Cambridges met the Irish president, Michael D Higgins, and his wife, Sabina, at their residence, Áras an Uachtaráin, in Phoenix Park. They rang the Peace Bell, which a former president, Mary McAleese, introduced in 2008 to mark the 10th anniversary of the Good Friday agreement.

Amid tight security, a small crowd gathered outside the garden to try to catch a glimpse of the royals. A piper played an Irish lament.

William and Kate met the taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, and his partner, Matthew Barrett, and were due later

▲ *President Michael D Higgins and his wife, Sabina Coyne, watch as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge ring the Peace Bell in Dublin*

PHOTOGRAPH: SAMIR HUSSEIN/WIREIMAGE

to attend a reception at the Guinness Storehouse.

Today and tomorrow they have engagements in Meath, Kildare and Galway. A statement said they would learn about Ireland's conservation initiatives and efforts to protect its environment. "The duke and duchess will have the opportunity to experience a taste of modern and traditional Irish culture for themselves."

Racism a factor in criticism of Meghan, says Hilary Mantel

Alison Flood

Hilary Mantel has said that racism has been an element in the "invective" against the Duchess of Sussex.

Mantel, whose latest novel, *The Mirror and the Light*, the third part of a trilogy about Thomas Cromwell, is published tomorrow, was asked by the BBC whether Meghan had been a victim of racism. She said racism was a factor in the criticism the duchess had faced since marrying Prince Harry.

"I think it's more deeply embedded in people's consciousness than any of us are willing to admit," said Mantel. "So I hesitate to call her a victim but I think there has been an element of racism in the invective against her."

Harry and Meghan will stop representing the Queen on 31 March, after what the prince described as a campaign of bullying by the tabloid press against his wife, "a ruthless campaign that has escalated over the past year, throughout her pregnancy and while raising our newborn son".

Mantel, whose novel *Bring Up the Bodies* depicted the downfall of Anne Boleyn, as engineered by Cromwell, said there was "still an intense concentration on the bodies of royal women".

"We only have to look at what happens when our royal ladies give birth," she said. "They are perceived as public property in the same way that Tudor women were perceived. It is simply turning the individual woman back into a breeder."

In 2013, Mantel said the Duchess of Cambridge appeared to have been "designed by a committee and built by craftsmen, with a perfect plastic smile and the spindles of her limbs hand-turned and gloss-varnished".

In brief

Politics

Johnson plans to make use of paternity leave

Boris Johnson plans to take paternity leave after the birth of his child with his fiancée, Carrie Symonds. The prime minister said he was likely to take up his entitlement to two weeks off in response to a question asked during a press conference.

Dominic Raab, the first secretary of state and foreign secretary, would be the next in line to take charge during the prime minister's absence.

Johnson, 55, announced at the weekend that he was expecting a child with Symonds, 31, and that the couple were engaged. He will become the first UK prime minister in 250 years to get married in office. The last child born to an incumbent prime minister was David and Samantha Cameron's daughter Florence. Cameron took paternity leave after her birth in 2010.

Johnson is not yet divorced from his second wife, Marina Wheeler, but they came to a financial settlement last month. Johnson and Wheeler have four adult children together. He also has a daughter with Helen Macintyre and has repeatedly refused to answer questions about whether he has any more children. **Rowena Mason**



PHOTOGRAPH:
OWEN HUMPHREYS/PA

Big chill A surfer decked out in head-to-toe neoprene - including a thermal hood, mittens and boots - takes on big seas at Tynemouth yesterday, where the water was about 6C.

Courts

Driver whose car hit police officer is jailed

A hit-and-run driver who left a police officer with a fractured skull has been jailed for more than seven years for causing grievous bodily harm with intent to resist arrest.

Tekle Lennox, 37, was filmed on another motorist's dashcam driving his Mini when it struck PC Chris Burnham, knocking him on to the windscreen and carrying him on the bonnet for almost three seconds before throwing him into the road. Lennox showed no emotion in the dock as he watched film of his victim lying injured near a roundabout in Coventry after being carried along by the Mini for 42 metres.

Warwick crown court heard yesterday that Burnham, 48, sustained multiple injuries, including a shattered knee and a bleed on the brain.

The officer had been trying to stop Lennox - who was serving a three-year road ban for drug-driving but driving while disqualified - after he failed to pull over in the Holbrooks area of Coventry on 25 September last year.

The judge also gave Lennox a five-year driving ban, to be served after his release from prison.

PA Media

Courts

Tommy Robinson arrested at Center Parcs

The former English Defence League leader Tommy Robinson, 37, has been charged with common assault after an incident at Center Parcs in Bedfordshire.

Police said he was due to appear at Luton magistrates court on 2 April and had been released on bail.

They said he was arrested on Sunday at Center Parcs in Woburn Forest after an altercation between two men. One man sustained an injury to his face and received first aid at the scene. **PA Media**

Longevity

Life expectancy up in biggest rise since 2010

Life expectancy in England surged in 2019 for men and women, after years of stagnation, find government data. The Office for National Statistics said life expectancy for women at birth increased to 83.6 years, up four months compared with 2018. For men the rise was three months, with their life expectancy put at 79.9 years. The rises represent the biggest jump since the start of the decade. **Patrick Collinson**

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Advance for equality as new LSE building wins award

Oliver Wainwright

Peer behind the construction hoardings on a side street near Aldwych and you will see one of London's great new interior spaces in the making. Large fan-shaped wedges of concrete zig-zag across the ceiling, connecting to thick tree-like columns that plunge below the hoarding line, suggesting a dramatic Piranesi-esque world under construction within.

This new building for the London School of Economics and Political Science by Grafton Architects, founded by Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara, yesterday named as the 2020 recipients of the Pritzker prize, the highest accolade for architecture.

When it is completed next year - with an open public plaza on the ground floor and spiral staircases twisting their way up towards cascading planted terraces - the project promises to embody many of the characteristics for which the Dublin duo's work has become renowned.

"A framework for human life," is how McNamara describes architecture, something that "anchors us and connects us to the world". Founding Grafton Architects in 1978, the pair have spent the last 40 years creating buildings that encourage interactions between people, whatever activities and communities might come along. They have a preference for weighty materials, such as concrete and stone, often sculpted in massive volumes that give their buildings a tough, primal quality. Their projects



London School of Economics and Political Science by Grafton Architects, founded by Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara (below)

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAFTON ARCHITECTS



feature airy atria, broad meandering staircases, views between floors, places to perch and loiter, celebrating the "free gifts" architecture can give the public, beyond merely fulfilling a client's brief.

"They demonstrate incredible strength in their architecture," said Tom Pritzker, chairman of the Hyatt Foundation, the hotel empire's charitable body, which funds the prize. "[They] show deep relation to the local situation in all regards, establish different responses to each commission while maintaining the honesty of their work, and exceed the requirements of the field through responsibility and community."

Awarding McNamara and Farrell the prize is a small step towards addressing the vast gender imbalance of the award's history. Of the 46 laureates to date, only three have been women (Zaha Hadid in 2004, Kazuyo Sejima in 2010, and Carme Pigem in 2017).

Grafton, which also won this year's RIBA gold medal, rose to prominence in the 2010s, as architecture took an ascetic turn. McNamara and Farrell's muscular geometries and raw material palettes of brick, wood, concrete and stone were a corrective to the previous decade's high-octane "iconic" buildings, which often seemed more interested in their signature shapes than the people they contained.

Grafton's most lauded project to date, in Lima, Peru, stands above a busy main road like a great concrete cliff face, supporting a series of terraces and classrooms. The teaching rooms are connected by open walkways and leaping staircases, creating a theatrical sequence of spaces, open to the elements. "We like to create spaces you couldn't design consciously, things that just happen somehow," McNamara said in 2017, when the building was the inaugural winner of the RIBA international prize.

Rare surviving land girls' hostel in Cheshire gets Grade II listing

Gregory Robinson

One of the last remaining Women's Land Army (WLA) hostels has been given Grade II listed status for being "vitally important" in recognising women's wartime efforts.

The humble hut, in Smallwood, Cheshire, has been listed by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on the advice of Historic England.

The WLA, also known as the land girls, was established in 1917 and re-formed in 1939. It helped to feed Britain during the second world war.

Some of the hostels were set up in existing buildings, from country houses to stables. But from 1942, about 200 hostels like the one in Smallwood were purpose-built, housing up to 48 women. Most have been lost.

Nora Wright, a 14-year-old orderly in 1942 who later joined the WLA, said Smallwood had cold concrete floors. Coke stoves and a coke boiler provided heating but there was none in the dormitories, she said.

All hostels were staffed by orderlies and a warden or matron and the layout usually consisted of a dormitory, dining and common room, kitchen, matron's room, sick room, bathroom and showers.

During the WLA's history about 250,000 women, mostly in their teens or early 20s, left their families and friends in their towns and cities to serve as land girls. Aside from farming, life in the hostels often consisted of backbreaking work such as forestry, digging trenches for planting or drainage, or felling trees.

Their willingness to endure the hardships demonstrated the capability of women, which helped the feminist cause in the postwar years.

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Baby bonuses

How breeding projects became an anti-migrant tool for populists

Shaun Walker

Nationalised IVF clinics, generous loans for couples who promise to procreate imminently and lifetime income tax exemption for having four or more children. Welcome to Viktor Orbán's drive to get Hungarians to breed: "family-friendly Hungary", in the words of the giant banners that now greet arrivals at Budapest airport.

Across Europe, as falling birthrates lead to projections of shrinking populations, policymakers are pondering: can we pay people to have more children? Countries with rightwing populist governments have answered with a resounding yes, as boosting fertility dovetails with their anti-migration and "family values" talking points.

Nowhere is the campaign for more children more intense than in Hungary. The country's fertility rate – the average number of children per woman – reached an all-time low of 1.23 in 2011 and remains well below the level of 2.1 that is required for population levels to remain constant. Orbán is spending

about 5% of GDP on the policies. "Without money, you can't reverse bad trends," he said. It follows on from the government's relentless anti-migration message of the past five years. "In all of Europe there are fewer and fewer children, and the answer of the west to this is migration," said Orbán in his state of the nation address last year. "They want as many migrants to enter as there are missing kids. We Hungarians have a different way of thinking. Instead of just numbers, we want Hungarian children. Migration for us is surrender."

'There are political forces in Europe who want a replacement of population for ideological or other reasons'

Viktor Orbán
Hungary's PM



Newly nationalised IVF clinics will offer free treatment cycles for all women who want them (as long as they are under 40 and not lesbian), and Orbán recently promised to extend the lifetime exemption from income tax to include mothers with three children.

Most strikingly of all, various loans offer money upfront based on a promise to have children. One of these loans provides 10m forint (£25,400) to young married couples. Each time a child is born, payments are deferred. If the couple have three children within the timeframe, the loan is written off.

Bettina, a 32-year-old teaching assistant from the village of Mágocs, in southern Hungary, is planning to take out the "baby-expecting loan". She and her husband already have one child and are planning another. "The loan is brilliant. If it wasn't for this help then we would have to live with one of our parents," she said.

The couple already have a 1.4m forint loan, taken out soon after their marriage and contingent on having two children within a six-year timeframe. "We are trying hard for another baby now but as the term approaches it does increase the pressure," she admitted.

Erika Simonics, the director of a kindergarten in Mágocs, said she thought the parents of about 90% of its attendees had taken out some kind of family support loan. "Maybe some people were planning to have just one kid, but if there is the support available they will have another. It's an incentive," she said.

Across Europe, governments have introduced benefits aimed at stimulating population growth. In Poland, the ruling Law and Justice party introduced the 500+ policy in 2016, under which mothers received 500 złoty (£99) per child per month from the second child onwards.

In Russia, a one-off payment of £5,800 to families with two or more children was launched in 2007. In January, Vladimir Putin announced new demographic measures that will cost 400bn roubles (£4.7bn) a year. "Russia's fate and its historic prospects depend on how many of



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▼ The Russian government has launched a package of measures to boost births that will cost £4.7bn

PHOTOGRAPH: KIRILL KUKHMAR/TASS/GETTY



us there are ... it depends on how many children are born in Russian families,” Putin said.

In western Europe, fertility rates dropped gradually over several decades as more women entered the workforce and began to postpone having children. In the post-communist states, the change happened differently. There was a drop in fertility after the collapse of communism, brought on by economic misery and social collapse. At a time when the future was uncertain, childbearing was postponed and birthrates fell.

Over the next years, as the economies of the post-communist states recovered and grew, the same dynamics that had changed the rates in western Europe kicked in, meaning the rates did not recover.

“There has been a change in mentality – maybe it’s a western influence. The generation that is now 30, they have gone to university and want to start having children much later. This means they have fewer children,” said Simonics.

In central and eastern Europe, the falling birthrates have been

exacerbated by large numbers of people moving westward in search of work, combined with minimal inward migration. A set of global population projections released by the UN in 2017 forecast that the combined population of 10 eastern European countries would fall from 292 million then to 218 million in

2100, while during the same period the population of west Africa would grow from 372 million to 1.6 billion.

“Europe has become the continent of the empty crib whereas in Asia and Africa they face demographic challenges of the opposite type,” Katalin Novák, Hungary’s minister of state for



▲ A billboard in Hungary about increasing birth rates PHOTOGRAPH: GABOR LIGETI



All this week

This is Europe is a new stream of Guardian journalism that examines the big challenges that transcend Europe’s borders and seeks out the

solutions that could benefit us all. These are testing times, and crises – climate, migration, contagious diseases – are not limited by national borders. But then, neither are we.

family, youth and international affairs, said at a conference on demography last year.

The forum in Budapest opened with a sand animation video of migrants rushing towards Europe, and was laced with references to the “great replacement” conspiracy theory, which suggests that shadowy forces want to replace “native” Europeans with outsiders. “There are political forces in Europe who want a replacement of population for ideological or other reasons,” Orbán said.

Ágoston Mráz, who heads a pro-government thinktank in Budapest, said the pro-children policy was a response to a longstanding conservative fear of national extinction. “It’s anti-liberal, it’s a sign that we are not a multicoloured country, we believe that while everyone is free to do what they want, there is a hierarchy, and a family made up of a husband and a wife is at the top,” he said.

The social conservatism underlying such policies is evidenced by the fact that much of the support is available only to married couples. Non-married heterosexual couples and single women are also eligible for free IVF treatment, but not lesbians.

In Poland, government messaging gives a populist twist to the 500+ policy. “In Germany, billions of euros are spent on support for immigrants, but here these billions are spent on Polish families,” said the prime minister, Mateusz Morawiecki.

Yet despite all the investment, the jury is still out on whether these policies work. In Hungary, the fertility rate has risen from 1.23 to 1.48, though it is hard to gauge how much of that is down to specific policies. “You don’t expect a breakthrough in two or three years – it’s going to take at least 10,” said Zoltán Kovács, Orbán’s spokesman.

Anne Gauthier, a professor of comparative family studies at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, said boosting fertility with government spending “can work under very specific

1.48

Fertility rate in Hungary, up from 1.23. Experts say it is hard to gauge how much is down to specific policies

£25,400

Value of a ‘baby-expecting loan’ in Hungary which is written off if the couple have three children

circumstances”. She said the key was continuity of policies over many years, giving people the confidence the measures were there to stay.

One important element is ensuring that women are able to return to the workforce. Iga Magda, vice-president of the Institute for Structural Research in Warsaw, said: “More than 50% of Polish young women have university education and they want to work. The only way to boost birthrates is to make it easier to combine work and family.”

Gauthier praised the Hungarian model for offering a package of measures rather than handing out cash. But researchers still do not know what effect particular family policies have on the birthrates.

“In Scandinavia we thought they got it right, there was a very comprehensive package focused on gender equality that ticks all the boxes, and in the past year fertility is going down. So we are scratching our heads and trying to work out what’s going on,” Gauthier said.

Fertility programmes allow populist governments to show they are taking care of families financially, reinforce focus on “traditional values” and accentuate fears of replacement if the “native” population continues to shrink.

The Czech prime minister, Andrej Babiš, said: “A good state is where the people are not scared of the future and where the population is rising not due to migration from foreign countries. I don’t wish to scare anyone but we must discuss the issue that we are facing extinction.”

World



'We don't have to be afraid any more' Idlib refugees enjoy safety in Turkey

Bethan McKernan
Reyhanlı, Turkey



In the video shot by her father, three-year-old Salwa listens intently to the rumble of military hardware. "Is it a plane or a shell?" he asks as they sit together on the sofa. "Shell!" she shouts, giggling hysterically when it explodes.

Turning the sounds of airstrikes and shelling into a game is how Abdullah Mohammed, 32, protected his daughter from the trauma of Syria's war. Last week, after already fleeing once on a perilous journey, the family made it to the safety of Antakya, just over the Turkish border. For the first time in her life,

Salwa, dancing around her new home in a pink princess dress, no longer has to listen to the sounds of the conflict.

Abdullah is giddy with relief. "Now we don't have to be afraid any more," he said. "Salwa has a completely different future."

The family were lucky to be invited to Turkey rather than having to pay smugglers thousands of dollars and dodge the bullets of border guards. However, 3 million other people like them are trapped by the three-month-old campaign by Bashar al-Assad, the Syrian president, and his Russian allies in Idlib province, the last opposition stronghold in the country.

Russian air power has emptied towns and villages of both civilians

and fighters, allowing the Syrian army and allied Iranian-backed militias to surge forwards and capture swathes of rebel territory.

While Damascus and Moscow say they are targeting jihadist factions not covered by a 2018 de-escalation deal, the UN says the aerial bombardment and shelling killed more than 130 civilians last month alone, hitting dozens of hospitals and schools. More than 900,000 people have fled their homes, most going north to the relative safety of the Turkish border, in the worst humanitarian crisis of the nine-year-old war.

The threat of a potential new influx of millions of refugees led Turkey, which supports some rebel groups, to increase its presence in

Idlib, sending thousands of troops and convoys of equipment in an attempt to repel the regime.

That has led to a major escalation in tensions between Ankara and Moscow, when at least 33 Turkish troops were killed in an airstrike last Thursday. While Turkey, a Nato member, officially blamed the Syrian regime for the attack, sources on the ground suggested the strike was actually carried out by the Russian air force.

Since then, the Turks have vented their fury on Assad's forces, destroying dozens of tanks, howitzers and air-defence systems, in what is in effect a declaration of war.

Yesterday Turkish F-16s roared over the hilly Bab al-Hawa border

'It is not too much to ask to be treated like a human being. I can take Salwa to the park every day'

Abdullah Mohammed
Salwa's father



Authoritarian art 'Stalinist Truman Show' shocks Russia

Page 29



Bibi the unbeatable? Why Israelis keep backing Netanyahu

Page 31

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◀ Salwa and her father, Abdullah Muhammed, left, are welcomed at the Turkish border after fleeing Idlib

PHOTOGRAPH: CEM GENCO/ANADOLU AGENCY

crossing into Idlib, where they shot down a fourth Syrian jet.

The intense fighting is likely to get worse as the parties scramble for maximum leverage before talks begin tomorrow between the Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin.

Omar Saad, a fighter with the Turkish-backed National Front group, said: "Turkish drones, artillery and surface-to-surface missiles have pushed the regime back. It's the first time ever I've seen Assad soldiers being hunted by aerial strikes the way they kill civilians. It's justice. And every warplane downed means civilian lives saved."

Otherwise, the Turkish side of the border zone is deceptively quiet. Stray dogs sleep beneath blossoming apricot trees and sheep roam the hillside. Shops in the border town of Reyhanlı have put up Turkish flags in solidarity with the offensive.

Bab al-Hawa has seen a steady stream of military vehicles and aid trucks, as well as a quick show of support from the US special representative to Syria, James Jeffrey, and the US ambassador to the UN, Kelly Craft, who visited the Atmeh displacement camp yesterday. The traffic, however, is almost entirely one way: Turks go in, but few Syrians are allowed out.

At Turkey's borders with the EU, the opposite situation is unfolding. After the strike on Turkish troops, Ankara declared it would no longer stop migrants from trying to cross into Europe - an announcement designed to pressure European members of Nato into supporting its campaign in Idlib.

Since then, the International Organisation for Migration estimates that at least 13,000 people have travelled westwards. That the new crisis on the fringes of the EU is manufactured is made all the more apparent by the fact that the southern border with Syria, where 3 million people are begging Turkey to open its doors, remains shut.

Abdulnaser al-Desh, stuck in Atmeh camp, does not have the \$3,000 (£2,350) per person that smugglers are demanding to get his wife and three children to Turkey.

He said Turkey was treating refugees as bargaining chips. "It is humiliating to be treated like a disease which no one wants."

Salwa's father, Abdullah, says he feels guilty his family managed to escape while so many in Syria are still suffering. "I feel bad to leave my siblings and Salwa's cousins and grandfather behind. At the same time, though, it is not too much to ask to be treated like a human being."

"I can take Salwa to the park every day. She is so much happier already."

Salwa clambers on to her father's lap and demands to be tickled. Neither of them can stop laughing.

Turkish border crisis EU leaders describe Greece as Europe's 'shield' and give Athens €700m to help deter migrants

Jennifer Rankin
Brussels

The European Union has given a show of support for Athens despite questions from the UN over breaches of international refugee law, describing Greece as Europe's "shield" in deterring migrants.

Four EU leaders met the Greek prime minister, Kyriákos Mitsotákis, at the border town of Orestiada yesterday, near where Greek police have been using teargas to deter hundreds of migrants from attempting to cross from Turkey.

The European commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, said: "This border is not only a Greek border, it is also a European border ... I thank Greece for being our European *aspida* in these times," which was translated as "shield".

She announced €700m (£610m) in EU funds for Greece, including €350m immediately for border infrastructure. The EU's border management agency, Frontex, is scrambling "a rapid border intervention" squad that includes one offshore vessel, six coastal patrol boats, two helicopters, one aircraft, three thermal-vision vehicles, as well as 100 border guards to reinforce 530 Greek officers at land and sea borders.

Croatia's prime minister, Andrej Plenković, echoed von der Leyen's words: "Greece is now the shield, the real external border of the European Union and the guarantor of stability for the entire European continent."



▲ Ursula von der Leyen and the Greek prime minister, Kyriákos Mitsotákis, fly over the border in a helicopter

PHOTOGRAPH: EU COUNCIL/ANADOLU/GETTY

The EU visit came amid an escalating war of words between Athens and Ankara, after Turkey's foreign minister said - without providing evidence - that Greek soldiers had killed three migrants attempting to enter the country, a claim denied by Greece.

The EU is battling to save its 2016 migration pact with Ankara after Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, said on Saturday he was "opening the doors", as Turkey could no longer handle refugees fleeing Syria.

On Monday, Erdoğan said Greek forces had killed two migrants and wounded a third, something Greece

angrily denied. "We dismissed this as misinformation yesterday via our government spokesman. How can there be a third fatality when there weren't any at all yesterday?" a Greek foreign ministry spokesman said.

Mitsotákis said Turkey had become "the official trafficker of migrants to the European Union" and was using "desperate people to promote this geopolitical agenda and to divert attention from the horrible situation in Syria".

He said tens of thousands of people who had tried to enter Greece since the weekend had not come from Idlib, but had been "living safely in Turkey for a long period of time".

The claim was partly supported by the UN high commissioner for refugees, Filippo Grandi, who said that few, if any, of those arriving in Greece were

from north-west Syria. But the UN refugee agency has questioned Greece's decision to suspend all asylum applications for one month.

In an implicit rebuke to Athens, the UNHCR said there was no legal basis for suspending asylum decisions in either the 1951 UN refugee convention or EU law. "Persons entering irregularly on the territory of a state should also not be punished if they present themselves without delay to the authorities to seek asylum," the UNHCR said.

Campaigners at Oxfam said the Greek decision was gravely concerning. "It is reminiscent of the disastrous lack of leadership in 2015-2016 when no government in Europe wanted to take responsibility for people in need," said Oxfam's migration campaign manager, Evelien van Roemburg.

An EU official said it was not clear whether Greece had broken EU asylum law: "It really is a job for the lawyers [to assess]."

The UNHCR also urged the EU to stop bickering over a long-stalled reform of EU asylum law, which the bloc has been unable to agree since the last migration crisis subsidised in 2016.

Mitsotákis said the EU had "not used the time wisely since the last migration crisis to address the situation effectively", adding it was "about time" the EU agreed on "effective burden sharing" meaning asylum seekers would be dispersed around the bloc, not left in frontline countries.

In a barely concealed dig at governments such as Hungary, which has flatly refused to take in refugees, he said: "We cannot afford to have that many free riders within the European Union, who pass the burden of managing the external borders to those countries who by virtue of geography happen to be placed where they are ... while at the same time not assuming any responsibilities in terms of managing this problem internally."

Lesbos violence Aid groups evacuate workers after attacks by islanders

Agence France-Presse
Lesbos

Aid groups are suspending work with refugees and evacuating staff from Lesbos, in the wake of violence by residents amid fear and confusion on the island at the centre of a heightened migrant crisis following Turkey's decision to open its border with Greece.

"Once night falls there are non-stop attacks on NGOs, on workers, on people who are here as volunteers," said Douglas Herman, co-founder of the organisation Refocus, which teaches media skills to refugees. "Most of those organisations right now have started to suspend their operations, some indefinitely. Many have advised their staff to leave the island, and many have heeded that call," he told AFP,

adding that all six of his group's current volunteers were departing.

The violence had been waged by "fascist" mobs, he said, describing roadblocks manned by thugs who had attacked or threatened people in cars.

Greece's land border with Turkey has had the largest push of migrants heading for western Europe in recent days. There has also been a surge in people attempting to cross to Greece's northern Aegean islands.

In an effort to curb the movements, which followed Ankara saying last week it would no longer stop refugees trying to enter western Europe from Turkey after the death of scores of its soldiers in airstrikes in Syria, Athens suspended its asylum procedures.

The new arrivals have exacerbated an already combustible climate on the Greek islands. Lesbos hosts more than

19,000 people crammed into squalid conditions around a camp built to house fewer than 3,000, a legacy of the 2015 migration crisis.

Residents on the island have protested against the presence of the migrants, suggesting they threaten safety, public health and a tourism-dependent economy.

That anger has led to violence in recent days, with an extremist minority accused of leading attacks on newly arrived migrants, intimidating media, and targeting aid workers, according to several groups based on Lesbos.

The Dutch group Boat Refugee Foundation, which provides medical care in Lesbos's Moria camp, said its



▲ Migrants scuffle with police at the port of Mytilene on Lesbos

staff and other aid workers had been victims of such an assault by island residents on Sunday.

"Their cars were hit with steel pipes," a spokesperson told AFP, adding that the violence appeared to be led by a "small group of rightwing extremists" who wanted to prevent more refugees from arriving.

The foundation's medical clinic had called a pause until it was considered safe enough to continue, she added.

On Monday the crew of the human rights observation ship Mare Liberum said the vessel had been "attacked by a mob of fascists" while docked on the island. "They shouted, threatened us [and] poured gasoline on our deck," the organisation wrote on Twitter.

Police, who have been accused of a sluggish response, have opened an investigation after reports of several "attacks on people and cars" on Lesbos, a police source told AFP. A day earlier officers fired teargas at refugees protesting against their detainment at the Moria camp.

Not all aid groups were leaving. "We don't plan to move," said the medical coordinator of Médecins du Monde, Dimitris Patestos.

▼ **London**

A detail from Everest, a photo-collage by the Japanese artist Sohei Nishino, from an exhibition at the Michael Hoppen Gallery from 11 March



Far-right candidacy in state election sparks mass boycott threat

Kate Connolly
Berlin

Conservatives and liberals in the eastern German state of Thuringia are preparing to abstain or to boycott the election for a new premier tonight after a far-right populist party put up its most controversial figurehead as a candidate.

Björn Höcke announced his candidacy less than an hour before the closing deadline on Monday. It sent shockwaves through the small state, where the left-wing premier, Bodo Ramelow, was ousted last month by centre-right politicians, using votes from the AfD. As a result, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, Angela Merkel's successor as general secretary of the Christian Democrats (CDU), resigned.

Tonight's secret ballot will put Höcke head to head with Ramelow, of the far-left Die Linke party, for the post of premier. Members of Merkel's CDU, and the pro-business FDP, have

said they will abstain, because they cannot vote for an extreme candidate on either the left or right.

However, a suspected case of coronavirus could yet derail the showdown. A CDU member in the Thuringia parliament was yesterday being tested for the virus; if his results come back positive, officials will have little choice but to postpone the vote.

Whenever the election does take place, the FDP, whose candidate Thomas Kemmerich won the poll last month on the back of votes from the AfD and the CDU, said it had with no choice but to boycott it.

"We only have a choice between

**'We have a choice:
Ramelow or Höcke.
We reject both'**

Thomas Philipp Reite
FDP spokesman



▼ Thuringia is in shock after Björn Höcke put his name forward in a two-horse race for premier
PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT MICHAEL/DPA

Ramelow, Höcke and to abstain," an FDP spokesman, Thomas Philipp Reiter, told German media. "We reject both candidates and also don't wish to abstain. In which case, our only remaining possibility is to not be physically present at the election."

Christian Lindner, head of the FDP, called the situation "extraordinary" and said it was "understandable that the FDP wants to exclude any suspicion that it helped support the AfD". He said he did not underestimate the AfD's capacity to try to undermine the election.

The CDU parliamentary group will not boycott the vote, despite calls from across the party, including its youth

wing, the JU, to do so. Some members have hinted they may abstain.

Höcke's opponents say he stands for the "Flügel", the far right of the party. Last September a court ruled he could legally be referred to as fascist, declaring "such a declaration rests on verifiable fact". Ramelow's opponents say he is a defender of the communist East German regime, arguing that makes him unelectable.

A majority vote is needed to win. Ramelow's desired coalition of Die Linke, Social Democrats and the Greens would give him 42 seats, four short of a majority, which would make him dependant on votes from either the CDU or FDP.

Attacks prompt bid for new rape laws in Spain

Reuters
Madrid

Spain's leftwing government has approved a bill that would define all non-consensual sex as rape, acting on a pre-election promise to strengthen laws in defence of women's rights.

Combating gender violence has been high on the political agenda since the 2016 "wolf pack" trial, in which five men were jailed for sexual abuse after gang-raping a woman at the Pamplona bull-running festival. Mass protests led to an appeal in 2019 in which the supreme court ruled the men had committed rape.

Irene Montero, the equality minister, said: "Spain will be a safer country for women ... Women's rights and sexual freedoms will never again be stranded down a blind alley."

The draft law seeks to establish specialised courts for dealing with sexual offences and round-the-clock recovery centres for victims. It would increase jail penalties for work-related sexual harassment to up to two years and make catcalling a criminal offence..

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► Vladimir Azhippo and Natalia Berezhnaya in the film, the result of a years-long experiment



'Stalinist Truman Show'

Critics balk at experimental film's real sex and violence

Andrew Roth
Moscow

Tatiana Shorokhova, a film journalist from St Petersburg, said that she began feeling sick and "physically afraid" while watching D.A.U.

Natasha, a controversial new film by Ilya Khrzhanovsky produced from a years-long experiment on an immersive film set built as a replica of a Soviet-era research institute. In fact, she compared the experience to rape.

It wasn't just the harrowing scenes of violence against the film's title character or depictions of real sex while drunk, she said, but the understanding that all of this was, in a way, real - part of a largely unscripted, immersive film shoot that involved thousands of people, most of whom were not professional actors, eating, sleeping and living as though they were truly in the Soviet Union. Some have dubbed it the Stalinist Truman Show.

Those recruited as actors wore

Soviet-style clothing and were banned from using mobile phones on set. One character, a real-life prison warden who played a brutal Soviet official in the film, described the experience as a "kind of metamorphosis," a "parallel world", and compared it to hypnosis, although he denied being sucked all the way in. The film-makers' main response to criticism has been that all the actors were there of their own free will, and could stop the action any time they wanted to. Some reviewers have hailed the film as an achievement in replicating the terror of life under authoritarianism.

Then Shorokhova and four other Russian film journalists at the Berlin film festival wrote an open letter to the festival's leadership questioning its selection over ethical concerns.

Their questions were simple. First, in the era following the Harvey Weinstein scandal, why is it acceptable to select a film that "contains scenes of real psychological and physical violence against non-professional actors"? Second, could the film have ever been made in a western country



▼ A scene from Ilya Khrzhanovsky's D.A.U. Natasha with Natalia Berezhnaya (who plays Natasha), Luc Bigé, and Olga Shkabarnya



◀ Teodor Currentzis playing Dau (Lev Landau, the eminent Soviet physicist) in the film

with western actors? And third, was the film's consideration for a prize "encouraging mistreatment of talent in the name of art"?

The backlash was immediate, Shorokhova said, describing a squall of criticism on social media ranging from considered criticism to violent threats.

"Me and my friends wrote just

three questions to the Berlin film festival and we became a pariah basically," she said. Broadly, they have been accused of writing an appropriately Soviet document, a *donos*, or denunciation, against the film, which went on to win an award at the Berlin festival for cinematography. She said she did not regret writing the letter, citing

the support that they had received from "good people" and saying she hoped the issue would be raised at later film festivals where products of the experiment may be screened.

"It's an important thing that we have started asking questions of film festivals. Because film festivals are all speaking about gender parity, about the women in competition, and, really? You have this ugly film depicting the torture of a woman? What for?"

In one - reportedly simulated - scene that has gained notoriety, the title character, Natasha, is forced by a Soviet security officer to insert a cognac bottle into her vagina.

"Everyone's saying I am against violence and sex on screen. No, I love a good sex scene. But it should not be unethical when you shoot it," Shorokhova said.

Khrzhanovsky and the other film-makers have repeatedly denied that abuse took place on the D.A.U. set.

Actor's accusers trying to 'jump on #MeToo wagon', say lawyers

Andrew Pulver

The actor James Franco has responded to allegations of sexual harassment by two former students by claiming they were an attempt to "jump on the [#MeToo] bandwagon" and played into "the media's insatiable appetite to ruin the next celebrity".

In a demurrer filed on 28 February to the Los Angeles county superior court, Franco's lawyers asked that the lawsuit filed in October by Sarah Tither-Kaplan and Toni Gaal be dismissed, saying none of the alleged events detailed had happened, and the statute of limitations had passed for the accusations.

Tither-Kaplan and Gaal have alleged that a now defunct programme run by Franco's Studio 4 acting school had enabled Franco and his male collaborators to engage "in widespread

inappropriate and sexually charged behaviour towards female students by sexualising their power as a teacher and an employer by dangling the opportunity for roles in their projects".

Tither-Kaplan has also alleged that she had witnessed Franco removing plastic guards that had been placed over female actors' genitals while he simulated oral sex during an orgy scene in one of his films.



▲ The US actor James Franco has been accused of sexual harassment

In the demurrer - an objection to the legal basis for a complaint - Franco's lawyers state: "The salacious allegations in the complaint have made great tabloid fodder, but like most tabloid stories, they are false and inflammatory, legally baseless and brought as a class action with the obvious goal of grabbing as much publicity as possible."

The filing by Franco denies actors were pressured to participate in nude scenes, saying that all performers had signed nudity waivers and no complaints were made at the time. It also denies vaginal guards were removed as Tither-Kaplan alleged, saying that all the performers using them had confirmed the guards were not removed.

In 2018 Franco was accused of sexual misconduct by five women (including Tither-Kaplan), which he denied. He was sharply criticised, including by the Breakfast Club actor Ally Sheedy, after wearing a Time's Up badge to the 2018 Golden Globes.

Franco is described in the legal statement as "an ardent believer in the righteousness of the #MeToo and Time's Up movements".

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States urge EU to lead on climate by setting 2030 target before July

Jennifer Rankin
Brussels

A dozen countries have called for an EU climate target for 2030 to be drawn up “as soon as possible”, if the bloc is to galvanise the rest of the world before UN talks in Glasgow later this year.

In a letter to the EU’s top official on climate action, Frans Timmermans, the dozen EU member states say “the EU can lead by example and contribute to creating the international momentum needed for all parties to scale up their ambition” by adopting a 2030 EU greenhouse-gas emissions reduction target “as soon as possible and by June 2020 at the latest”.

This year’s UN talks in Glasgow are crucial, as the world is far adrift of goals set at the 2015 Paris conference, including to limit global heating to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. Even half a degree higher would significantly increase the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty.



▼ Europe’s largest coal plant, in Belchatów, Poland. The country gets 80% of its electricity from coal
PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

The letter puts pressure on Timmermans, who is due to unveil the EU’s long-awaited climate law today. A leaked draft of the law shows his plans to propose an EU-wide 2030 target by September. The target would probably be an emissions reduction of 50-55% compared with 1990 levels, which green activists say is not enough

55%

A proposed maximum EU emissions reduction target for 2030 on 1990 levels, according to a leaked draft

to guarantee meeting the EU’s goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

EU officials think a couple of months’ difference in proposing the target makes little difference, but would allow them time to bring on board more reluctant countries, including Poland, which has not yet signed up to the EU goal of net-zero emissions by mid-century.

The climate and environment ministers argue timing is crucial, as they want the organisation to have a 2030 target before an EU-China summit in September, and well ahead of the Glasgow talks in November. “No

other major economy is prepared to take the lead to ensure an ambitious implementation of the Paris agreement,” they write.

Wendel Trio, director of the Climate Action Network Europe, said: “By proposing a 2030 target increase only in September, the commission will give member states no time to reach an agreement by Cop26 in November, the international deadline by which all countries must commit to new, ambitious climate pledges for 2030. The EU needs to have its own house in order, and quickly to push other countries to make substantial contributions.”

‘The EU needs to have its own house in order, and quickly to push other countries’

Wendel Trio
Climate Action Network

The letter, organised by Denmark, was also signed by France, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands. Only two signatories – Slovenia and Latvia – are central or eastern countries. Germany is conspicuous by its absence.

The EU climate law is the centrepiece of the European Green Deal, which aims to transform Europe’s economy to confront the climate emergency. The law could set Brussels on a collision course with populist governments in Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, which have been the slowest moving on the climate emergency. Putting the 2050 net-zero target into law means Poland could be outvoted if it still refused to sign up.

Under the law, Brussels would also be able to take a government lagging behind on its climate target to the European court of justice.

Poland, which generates 80% of its electricity from coal, is seeking EU funds to help wean its economy from fossil fuels. The European commission has proposed a €100m (£87m) fund to help countries with coal-mining jobs adjust to a green economy.

The Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg is likely to give her verdict on the EU climate plans when she meets MEPs today. She will also lead a “European strike” in Brussels on Friday with Belgian campaigners.

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Commuters still prefer jams to public transport, EU finds

Daniel Boffey
Brussels

European commuters are still choosing their cars over public transport despite enduring ever longer journey times into city centres owing to traffic congestion, the EU’s spending watchdog has found in a new report.

Six years after Brussels announced a step change in urban transport and provided more than €16.3bn (£14.2bn) in funding, the European court of auditors (ECA) said it had found no significant trend in favour of using public transport or bicycles.

The ECA said: “Persuading citizens to leave the comfort of their cars for other forms of transport is often a challenge. Although cities have put in place a range of initiatives to expand the quality and quantity of public transport, there has been no significant reduction in private car usage.”

It called for greater political leadership after it visited eight cities in Germany, Spain, Poland and Italy, surveying a further 88 cities and assessing 15 projects supported by the EU.

The auditors said it was still often quicker to travel to city centres by car despite congestion, resulting in rising greenhouse gas emissions. However,

the report, Sustainable Urban Mobility in the EU, found that the areas of Madrid, Barcelona and Hamburg that could be reached by car within 30 minutes during peak time were “far smaller” in 2019 than in 2012, a situation echoed to a lesser degree in Palermo, Warsaw, Naples and Leipzig.

A senior ECA auditor said: “We found no evidence of a clear trend towards more sustainable modes of transport. In addition, greenhouse gas emissions due to transport continued



▲ Heavy traffic in Naples, where fare evasion leaves buses underfunded

to increase and congestion deteriorated in most cities analysed.”

Through the European Structural and Investment Fund, the EU provided €16.3bn from 2014 to 2020 to change the way people move in cities. An extra €200m went to larger cities.

The auditors said the money was used, but with “limited take-up” of European commission guidance on how to spend it. Money was being wasted on ill-fated projects, while city plans often lacked coherence. Few cities had introduced congestion charges or were committed to building cycle lanes, and public transport systems were under financial pressure, with costs not always covered by tickets.

In Naples, the municipal transport company said ticket evasion in the city amounted to about 33%, leaving it unable to invest in new buses. The average age of its 500 buses was 13.4 years by 2018; one in three could not be used.

In Poland, the report found parking fines were lower than those for evading public transport fares. In Warsaw, cars are banned from the side of the road yet one can park on pavements.

An auditor said congestion cost the EU €270bn a year and funds from Brussels should be more closely linked to plans to shift people out of their cars.

“Congestion also has a negative impact on economic growth,” the auditor said. “In addition, 96% of EU citizens living in urban areas are exposed to health-damaging levels of air pollutants, and the environmental cost of transport is estimated at several hundred billion euros per year.”

Netanyahu starts talks to build coalition as rightwing alliance falls short of a majority

**Oliver Holmes and
Quike Kierszenbaum** Tel Aviv

Benjamin Netanyahu has begun talks to form a government after coming out ahead in Israel's third election within a year, although the prime minister still appeared short of vital seats for a majority coalition.

By last night, with roughly 90% of the votes counted, Netanyahu's Likud party was leading with 36 seats, with a total of 59 for his rightwing alliance.

Critically, he was just two seats shy of a 61-seat parliamentary majority and, if the final tally remains the same, would only be able to forge an administration by enticing rival politicians to join him.

While full results will not be released until next week, the 70-year-old

politician had already gathered allies, including far-right nationalists and Jewish religious party chiefs, in Jerusalem to discuss a plan of action to break the deadlock.

It was not immediately clear who they could convince to defect from the opposition. Under Israeli law, Netanyahu will have 28 days to do so or risk the process collapsing, leading to the unappealing possibility of a fourth election later this year.

Regardless, Monday's result – the best for Likud in all three elections – was a stunning turnaround for a man two weeks away from the start of a major criminal corruption trial. He is expected to appear in a Jerusalem court on 17 March on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust in three major cases.

His main opponent, the retired

general Benny Gantz and his Blue and White party, took 32 seats, partial results showed.

Meanwhile, politicians representing the country's sizeable Arab minority appeared to be set for significant gains, possibly their best ever performance.

The Joint List alliance have been calling for people to vote for them as a protest against Netanyahu's racist campaigns.

Early counts showed the party had up to 15 seats, making it the third largest party in the Knesset by a clear margin. It ruled out joining a government led by Netanyahu.

In the early hours of yesterday, at a rowdy election party in Tel Aviv, Netanyahu told cheering crowds waving blue flags that his "victory" was sweeter than the first time he became

prime minister in 1996 because it was harder. "We stood in front of strong forces. They told us we are going to lose, that it was the end of the Netanyahu era," he said. "We turned lemons into lemonade."

Responding to the results, Husam Zomlot, the Palestinian envoy to the UK, said Israeli voters had "rewarded hate, corruption and the promise to annex the occupied territories", referring to Netanyahu's recent promises to take more Palestinian land.

Gantz had focused his campaign on Netanyahu's alleged corruption and

59

Seats won by Netanyahu's rightwing alliance, two short of a majority, with 90% of votes counted yesterday

anti-democratic moves. The strategy appears to have failed three times.

At the Blue and White election party, the room emptied as rumours started to spread of a potentially disastrous result.

"We are not beating around the bush and not telling ourselves stories: I share the sense of pain and of disappointment," Gantz said.

Israel has been in an extended state of political crisis for almost 12 months after two previous general elections failed to produce a clear winner. To end the stalemate, Netanyahu had sought to energise his hardline nationalist base with promises of land grabs from Palestinians.

A week ago, he announced he would go ahead with a highly controversial plan to build settlements east of Jerusalem. The plan would almost completely encircle Palestinian neighbourhoods in the holy city.

Netanyahu had made similar appeals before the previous votes. In April, he said he would annex all current settlements, and in September he promised to go further by claiming sovereignty over a third of the entire West Bank.

Analysis

Oliver Holmes



This win has Trump parallels: voters do not believe the claims against their PM or do not care

If Benjamin Netanyahu was going to lose one Israeli election in a big way, it may have been this one. Or at least that's how it appeared to some onlookers.

The prime minister was clearly on a downward trajectory. After losing allies and failing to form a government after last April's election, the 70-year-old rightwing leader suffered a humiliating result in a repeat vote in September.

He managed to limp on by impeding his opponent Benny Gantz and forcing an unprecedented third election, but the situation deteriorated further: in November, Netanyahu was indicted for bribery, fraud and breach of trust in three major criminal cases. In December, he had to fend off an internal leadership challenge.

Adding to his woes, the timing of Monday's election – held just two weeks before a scheduled court appearance in Jerusalem – could not have been worse.

Yet as the votes were being counted yesterday, it seemed Netanyahu had somehow regained his swagger. While it remains unclear whether he can form a government, or if the country's political landscape is doomed to remain in stasis, his ruling Likud party appears to be on track to win a significant number of seats and more than any other faction.

According to the commentator Mati Tuchfeld, the result was "a comeback unseen in Israeli politics".

Writing in the often pro-Netanyahu Israel Hayom, he said: "One must remember that we are not speaking about a sparkling new candidate who managed to sway the masses, but rather the longest-serving prime minister in Israeli history who reinvented himself."

Blame may inevitably fall on Gantz, who failed to differentiate himself ideologically. The former army chief largely agrees with Netanyahu on many key issues, including the continued occupation of the Palestinian territories and allying with other nationalist rulers such as Donald Trump.

Instead, Gantz ran his campaign on notions of personal honesty and integrity. He hoped Israelis would see him as a clean-cut alternative. Even if they did, it did not help him.

That leaves perhaps two clear explanations for the result – voters either do not believe the corruption allegations against Netanyahu, or do not care. In this respect, there are parallels with some of Trump's supporters in the US who either refuse to believe or are happy to play down criticism of his conduct.

After midnight yesterday, at Likud's election event in Tel Aviv, the atmosphere was much more upbeat than in the previous two rounds. Yuli Edelstein, the speaker of the Knesset, Israel's parliament,



◀ Benjamin Netanyahu smiles after the first exit polls suggest his Likud party holds an edge over its rivals
PHOTOGRAPH: ARIEL SCHALIT/AP PHOTO

at what is happening around us," said Ilana Benyamin.

As in previous campaigns, Netanyahu claimed only he could score big diplomatic wins from foreign leaders such as Trump, who agreed to long-taboo Israeli demands for permanent control of parts of the occupied territories. He also energised his hardline nationalist base by demonising citizens from Israel's Arab minority and repeatedly promising future land grabs from Palestinians.

So why didn't Netanyahu also win in the last election? Campaign officials said the strategy this time was to turn a negative campaign into a positive one.

Rather than trying to scare people into voting, which may have resigned them to a loss, Likud spread the message that victory was within their reach – if they turned out to vote. The campaign team also discovered that several tens of thousands of their supporters had not voted in the previous elections. They then went out to find them, one by one.

Ravit Hecht, a columnist for the left-leaning Haaretz newspaper, said Netanyahu had run a "venomous campaign" against Gantz by delving into his personal life. Vitally, she said, the PM persuaded voters that only he could end the painful political chaos by winning, even if it had a deeper cost for the country.

"It's worth mulling ... the choice that was made, considering the admiration of Netanyahu's cruelty, the worshipping of his dictatorial aggressiveness and the enthusiastic support for his campaign that included unbridled racism, lies, mudslinging and a descent into a moral abyss," wrote Hecht.

So why didn't he also win in the last election? Likud said the strategy this time was to turn a negative campaign into a positive one

summed up why the corruption cases appeared not to have had a bigger impact: "The people knew all the facts and figures, and this was their decision and their vote."

On election day, a Jerusalem grocer said the corruption claims did not faze her and repeated a widely held local belief that Netanyahu's 10-year-run in power had made Israelis safer and richer, which she said was more important. "I don't mind if he eats takeaway food in boxes covered with diamonds. Look



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Financial

Sirius investor rebellion puts £4bn fertiliser mine in doubt

Rob Davies

The future of a £4bn mine under the North York Moors is in the balance after an investor rebellion that threatens to derail the £405m takeover of Sirius Minerals, the company developing it.

During a fractious shareholder meeting, at which security guards were drafted in to monitor “credible threats” against directors, investors branded members of the board “stupid” and called the takeover a “bloody disgrace”.

Executives urged them to put their anger at Sirius’s collapsing share price aside and back a sale to Anglo American, the global mining company that swooped in after Sirius failed to raise enough funds to complete the project and warned it would soon run out of money.

A cohort of small shareholders claimed they would rather let the

company go into administration, wiping out the value of their shares, than accept Anglo’s 5.5p-per-share bid. Votes were still being counted last night. The shares closed at 4.67p yesterday, having been priced as high as 38p in summer 2018.

The vote comes nearly a decade after Sirius Minerals unveiled plans to build a mine under the North York Moors to exploit a seam of polyhalite, a mineral that can be used as a potent fertiliser. It built popular support for the plan by rallying 85,000 small investors, many of them local, to fund a project that involves sinking two mine shafts and building a 23-mile underground conveyor belt to take polyhalite to Teesside for export.

Many of those investors have been left nursing huge losses after a £400m bond issue failed. The company blamed the effect of Brexit on debt markets and a refusal by the government to offer loan guarantees.

Earlier this year, Sirius announced

it had accepted a takeover offer from Anglo American at 5.5p per share.

Many individual shareholders bought shares at 20p or more after bold promises from the chief executive, Chris Fraser, who painted a picture of an asset that would churn out billions of pounds in profit over more than 50 years. As they gathered at the Honourable Artillery Company in London, some had already vowed to vote against the takeover.

Fraser and the company’s chairman, Russell Scrimshaw, repeatedly advised shareholders to accept the takeover or face Sirius’s almost certain collapse into administration by April.

“This isn’t a great price but it is the price,” said Fraser, who described

5.5p

The price-per-share Anglo agreed to pay for Sirius Minerals. The shares were priced as high as 38p in 2018

his inability to secure financing to complete the mine as the “greatest failure of my career”.

He also criticised Boris Johnson for refusing to issue a loan guarantee that could have helped secure \$2.5bn (£1.9bn) from the US bank JP Morgan. “As much as the prime minister makes these statements about wanting to support the north, this is the poster child for what they should be supporting ... They chose not.”

A number of investors were holding out hope that voting down the takeover would smoke out a white knight buyer ready to submit a higher bid. Some sold all but one share, just so they could vote at the meeting.

Paul Thurgood, a gardener, said: “We’ve been cut out of the equation ... I’ve already lost a lot anyway.”

Others criticised the government for failing to financially support a project that was expected to bring 1,000 permanent jobs to North Yorkshire. Peter Sutton, a retired chartered engineer, said: “The way this has been handled is a bloody disgrace.”

Another investor, Michael Holland, said shareholders had “invested in a dream” that had been punctured.

Sirius Minerals has already spent \$1.5bn on the Woodsmith mine, near Whitby. It said Anglo would need to invest a further \$3.1bn to get the mine up an running within two years.

British Steel rescuer says sale will mark ‘new chapter’ for industry

Rob Davies

The Chinese company buying British Steel promised “a new chapter in British steelmaking” as it edged towards the rescue of a business that has been funded by the government since it plunged into insolvency 10 months ago.

Jingye, which is run by a former Communist party official, expects to complete the takeover next week, despite lingering uncertainty over whether France will permit one of British Steel’s most profitable assets, the Hayange steel plant in north-east France, to be acquired by a Chinese buyer.

Jingye will pay approximately £70m and has agreed to invest £1.2bn to revive the business, whose £1m-a-day losses have been supported by a government indemnity since last May.

About 3,200 staff have been offered contracts, while 400 learned this week that they would be made redundant if the sale closes as expected on Monday.

The sale will secure the immediate future of the Scunthorpe steelworks, one of the last two blast furnace operations in the UK steel industry.

Jingye was founded 30 years ago by Li Ganpo, who is now its chairman. He built the group from scratch in a corner of the Hebei province famed for the role it played in the establishment of the People’s Republic of China.

Alok Sharma, the business secretary, said: “Jingye has reached a significant milestone in securing a deal for the future of British Steel. Work continues towards completing the sale, which will give certainty to British Steel’s dedicated and talented workforce in Scunthorpe, Skinningrove and on Teesside.”

Li Huiming, the chief executive of Jingye, said: “These steelworks have existed for around 150 years and we are excited about what we can collectively achieve at British Steel to build a successful future.”

The Chinese firm said it was happy to go ahead with the purchase of British Steel’s UK and Dutch assets, while waiting for the French government to decide whether it would approve the sale of Hayange. The plant, near Luxembourg, is seen as a strategic national asset because it supplies track for France’s railways.

While Jingye plans to make 400 staff redundant, Roy Rickhuss, the head of steelworkers union Community, said he still hoped more workers could be transferred to the new company.

Stern: put £8bn into low-carbon infrastructure to help regions

Phillip Inman

The author of a groundbreaking 2006 report on the economic impact of climate change has called on the new chancellor, Rishi Sunak, to spend more than £8bn in his first budget next week to kickstart a “massive and long-term” boost to “zero-carbon infrastructure, new skills and sustainable innovation”.

Nicholas Stern said the chancellor had an unique opportunity to address regional inequalities and invest to meet the government’s target for net-zero emissions with measures that had already been highlighted in the Conservative party manifesto.

Lord Stern, chair of the London School of Economics’ Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, urged Sunak to focus his efforts on sectors that are “difficult to decarbonise”, such as transport, property and industry.

Sunak is known to be hurriedly re-writing his budget speech for 11 March and earmarking funds to tackle the coronavirus outbreak, possibly delaying measures to improve infrastructure around the UK.

But he is expected to signal extra



spending in the regions over the next parliamentary term to 2024, to support Britain reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Stern recommends that the government use the £6.3bn committed for energy efficiency in the 2019 election manifesto to reduce energy waste in buildings, which are responsible for nearly a fifth of the UK’s greenhouse gas emissions.

He also recommends that the £1bn committed in the manifesto for electric vehicle charging points should be focused on rural areas of the UK that

would otherwise miss out on the electric car revolution.

Stern said the £800m that has been promised to limit emissions, through initiatives to capture carbon and store it, should be used as an incentive to generate private-sector investment.

“The budget should mark the start of a decade of massive investment in accelerating the transition of the UK economy to zero-carbon growth,” said Stern.

The academic economist’s 2006 report for the then chancellor, Gordon Brown, was one of the first to show

▲ *A Brussels environmental protest. Stern said investing in decarbonising the economy would also boost skills*

PHOTOGRAPH: F ANDRIEU/REPORTERS

the economic challenges from climate change, and how they could be met in the UK and globally.

Stern added: “By 2030 the UK could have higher living standards, and better health and wellbeing, underpinned by UK businesses innovating and adopting cutting-edge zero-carbon technologies and practices fit for the mid-21st century.”

Cornwall

'Poverty looks different here than in a city'

In the budget next week the new chancellor, Rishi Sunak, is expected to announce measures to kickstart the 'levelling up' of Britain's lop-sided economy. The Guardian has visited three places which the government should be targeting - to discover the scale of the local problems, and what help is needed

Larry Elliott

Things are looking up for Penzance. The town's wonderful seawater lido has been refurbished. Maintenance and repair for the sleeper trains to Paddington has been relocated, because of work on HS2, creating 70 jobs. There are ambitious plans to revamp the main shopping street, which curves elegantly up from the railway station to the statue of the town's favourite son, Humphry Davy.

But progress is slow. Cornwall has wage levels normally found in the most challenged parts of the north of England with the sort of house prices - inflated by the large number of holiday and retirement homes - associated with the plusher parts of the south-east. Penzance was also one of the first towns to suffer the hollowing out of retailing; it is not uncommon for residents to have five or six low-paid jobs during the peak summer season. There are Cornish



estates that rank among the highest in the league tables for multiple deprivation, and the region is one of only two in the UK eligible for special assistance from Brussels owing to having incomes per head less than 75% of the EU average. The £1.4bn of investment since the turn of the century did not prevent a 56.5% vote for leaving the EU, however.

Economic hardship is not immediately obvious. As James Green, director of the Newlyn Art Gallery, puts it: "Poverty looks different in Cornwall than it does in an urban situation. People who come here eat in the nice restaurants, they rent the pretty cottages, they walk on the beautiful beaches - and they misunderstand the challenges Cornwall faces."

Tourism is thriving, according to Paul Ainsworth, chef patron of two restaurants in Padstow. "The biggest change I have seen since arriving here in 2005 is the staycation, people coming here out of season. In the last year there's been a huge surge in the number ... In part that's due to the pound's weakness, but a lot are nervous about terrorism, and

concerned about climate change."

For all the cream teas and golden beaches beloved by the visitors, Cornwall has much in common with old industrial Britain: a loss of jobs in staple industries; the growth of low-paid precarious employment; relatively high levels of disguised joblessness caused by people leaving the workforce altogether; a struggle to prevent the young and the talented from leaving.

Yet there remains a sizeable manufacturing base, which accounts for 10% of the Cornish economy. Eric Nichols, who runs Helston-based Spiral UK, a bespoke staircase maker, says: "The challenges are many, but I would pick out logistics and connectivity. The infrastructure is better than it was but if you make stuff you've got to move it. It takes four and a quarter hours to get from Truro to London. It's quicker to go from London to Glasgow."

The Conservatives won all six Cornish seats in the 2019 general election and the government has pledged to make its new shared prosperity fund as generous as the EU money it is replacing. Yet the

▼ Penzance has ambitious plans for regeneration, but the council leader says it will take both time and money

PHOTOGRAPH: UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP/GETTY

'People eat in the nice restaurants, rent the pretty cottages, walk on the beaches - and misunderstand the challenges we face'

James Green
Newlyn Art Gallery

council thinks the investment will be skewed towards the former Labour seats in the Midlands and the north of England that gave Boris Johnson his 80-seat majority.

Julian German, an independent councillor and leader of Cornwall's unitary authority, said: "We don't want to be forgotten about. We face some of the systemic challenges the north faces and in terms of connectivity more so."

The council senses there may be inherent bias against Cornwall because it has no big city but rather a collection of similar sized towns strung out along the railway line that runs down the county's spine. But on the northern edge of Redruth sits Krowji, Cornwall's largest creative hub. The idea is to marry the county's high-speed broadband with students from Falmouth to kickstart the local economy.

Glenn Caplin, CEO of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly local enterprise partnership, notes the challenges of the structural industrial decline: in fishing in Penzance, in hard rock mining around Camborne and Redruth, and in china clay mining in St Austell. He wants Cornwall's economic future to be based on high-value sectors - digital, space, geo-resources, renewable energy, agri-technology, green tourism.

It would be some transformation and would need patience as well as cash. Penzance wants to use its government cash to create a year-round town, a creative sector, and a place for independent retailers.

The proliferation of charity shops and a median income of £14,000 a year signals there is still much to do. That squares with the council leader's thinking. "The key word in re-generation is generation" said German. "It takes time."

In numbers

Election result
Conservative MPs held all six Cornish constituencies. Each increased their majority, by between 1.7% (Truro and Falmouth) and 8.6% (Cornwall North)

Average pay
£19,763, 79% of the UK average as of December 2019 (Annual survey of hours and earnings, ONS)

Average house price
£237,000. The UK average is £233,000 (Land Registry)

GDP per head
68% of EU average (Eurostat)

Unemployment
From 2.4% (Cornwall South East) to 5% (Truro and Falmouth) (data from 2018, latest available)

Percentage of workless households
16.5%. The UK average is 14.5% (data from 2018, latest available)

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Business view

Nils Pratley

The Fed's trigger-happy rate cut, after its assurances last week, suggests it's been truly spooked

Financial markets, having demanded a rate cut to fight a coronavirus-provoked economic downturn, didn't know which way to turn when the US Federal Reserve obliged with a half-point reduction. Wall Street's whoosh lasted an hour, and the next direction for stock markets is anybody's guess.

One could say it's legitimate for the Fed to jump into emergency mode if it perceives "evolving risks to economic activity". Cutting borrowing costs, even by small amounts, allows businesses and consumers to save a few dollars that can be used to weather disruption. If that's the tactic, you might as well move early.

Yet the Fed gave the impression only last week that it would prefer to see some hard economic data before changing stance. What's "evolved" so quickly? Was it last week's stock market falls, President Trump's lobbying for a cut, or behind-the-scenes intelligence about the spread of the virus? None of those possibilities conveys confidence.

The other confusing aspect is that the Fed's trigger-happy approach did not form part of a joined-up international effort. Indeed, the outcome of the earlier teleconference between G7 finance ministers and central bank chiefs was a ho-hum pledge to use "all appropriate policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable growth and safeguard against downside risks". In other words, it was a statement of intent, rather than one of action.

That being so, the Fed's unilateral action came across merely as a nervy effort to throw something at financial markets to keep them quiet until the G7 cooks up a fighting fund or a "shock and awe" package of economic measures. Markets, unfortunately, are rarely patient. They also know that monetary measures are an ineffective tool for tackling a healthcare emergency.

One suspects investors will soon want to see more than a Fed cut – such as policies aimed at the crisis, rather than share prices.

Have a small flutter if you wish, but don't punt large chunks of your savings on the basis of a single company's flimsy financing plans

Polyhalite prospecting

One feels desperate sympathy for those small investors who have lost more than they can afford to lose by buying shares in Sirius Minerals, but what on earth were they thinking?

A speculative project to mine for polyhalite, a nutrient-rich mineral used as a fertiliser, under the North York Moors is almost the definition of a high-risk investment. Have a small flutter if you wish but please don't punt large chunks of your savings on the basis of a single company's flimsy financing plans.

Look at the scale of what Sirius needed to fund. The project involved sinking two shafts to a depth of almost a mile and then building a 23-mile underground tunnel to a port on Teesside. All that had to be completed before any cash from selling polyhalite would arrive. The possibility of ending up with almost nothing was always real.

Sirius's management, having spent most of 2019 scrambling for money, eventually surrendered to a low-ball takeover from the mining giant Anglo American at 5.5p a share, a far cry from the 38p seen as recently as 2018. Cue rounds of recrimination at yesterday's shareholder meeting to vote on the deal, with the result still pending.

Come on, though, there's no point damning Chris Fraser, the company's chief executive, for the bad turn of events. Yes, he probably gushed too wildly about Sirius's prospects in the past – but that's what chief executives do. And, yes, it suited Sirius to have a large band of local shareholders when it was seeking planning consents. But the financial risks around a startup mining project were always clear to outsiders, or should have been.

Nor is it any use blaming the government for failing to back a big northern infrastructure project. Fraser himself was guilty on that score at yesterday's meeting but, from the point of view of the public purse, a takeover by Anglo, if it gets approved by Sirius's shareholders or arises out of administration, would be perfect.

One of the world's biggest mining companies would commit to investing \$3bn in a multi-year expansion near Whitby, creating a few thousand jobs and, one hopes in time, generating a few tens of million of pounds a year in tax for the Treasury. And it would all happen without public subsidy.

Regardless of the outcome of the vote, the government should direct some serious investment towards financial education in the UK. Another Sirius-style punt will arrive soon and more scepticism is needed.

UK may be asked to foot bill for keeping Vauxhall plant open, says Peugeot

Jasper Jolly

Peugeot could demand compensation from the British government to keep its Vauxhall factory in Ellesmere Port open in the event of a bad Brexit deal, its chief executive has said.

Carlos Tavares, the head of Peugeot's owner, the Paris-listed PSA Group, said the carmaker's European workers should not be forced to bear the costs of "customs barriers" between the UK and the EU when the transition period finished at the end of the year.

Carmakers have voiced concerns about the future trading relationship between the UK and EU, with repeated warnings that tariffs and customs checks could threaten the survival of large parts of the industry.

The Ellesmere Port factory in Cheshire, which employs about 1,000 people, is seen as particularly vulnerable because a decision on building a new Vauxhall Astra model

is overdue. PSA, which is merging with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, has already stopped investment in the factory.

In a call with journalists yesterday, Tavares said: "If we couldn't find a business case ... we would have to ask the UK government to compensate for that, because it is not ethically acceptable that we ask the continental European workers to pay for the customs barriers to enter the UK market."

"There is a point in time that the UK government needs also to respect its own people by creating conditions for the business in the UK to fly."

Tavares's comments came as carmakers arranged phone calls and online launch events to replace the Geneva motor show, which has been cancelled because of the coronavirus outbreak.

In a presentation streamed from

▼ A worker at the Vauxhall Astra plant in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, which is owned by France's PSA Group PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL THOMAS/GETTY



Greggs profits on a roll but coronavirus could hit sales

Julia Kollewe and Zoe Wood

Greggs made record profits in 2019, the year that it launched its popular vegan sausage roll, but said the storms and flooding that affected Britain in recent weeks had put the brakes on sales.

The bakery chain said the wettest February on record had caused a slump in sales. Flooding in south Wales caused the temporary closure of its bakery and distribution centre in Treforest, as well as 40 of its Welsh stores, it added.

Greggs makes its vegan doughnuts in Treforest. The production line was damaged by floodwater, resulting in the item being unavailable for several weeks while repairs were carried out.

Despite the upheaval, sales at stores open more than a year were up 7.5% in the nine weeks to 29 February 2020.

The update yesterday came as Greggs posted a 27% rise in 2019 pre-tax profits excluding one-off charges totalling £114.2m. Like-for-like sales grew by a record 9.2%.

Roger Whiteside, its chief executive, said the coronavirus outbreak could hit future sales if large numbers of people stopped travelling to work. "If there is some sort of widespread contagion how might that affect the

27%

The increase in pre-tax profits for 2019 excluding one-off charges of £114.2m, according to Greggs

Munich, executives at BMW swapped handshakes for fist bumps as they unveiled their new i4 electric car concept, a version of which is due to go on sale next year. On Monday the company quarantined 150 research and development employees after a colleague caught the virus.

In another call with journalists Ola Källenius, the chairman of Daimler, which owns Mercedes-Benz, said the company had been gradually ramping up production at its Beijing plant since 10 February. The coronavirus outbreak had highlighted the need to track supply chains back to source, he added.

"This is really day-by-day management," he said. "It is too early to tell what the full impact will be."

Tavares said the outbreak had been a "wake-up call" for carmakers about the need to take control of battery supply chains, which are heavily dependent on China. Peugeot had been forced to step in to help a South Korean battery producer to increase production at a factory in Poland, with supply chains creaking.

Shutdowns of battery materials plants in China in particular could make it more difficult for carmakers to hit EU emissions targets this year and next, according to Matthias Schmidt, a Berlin-based independent automotive analyst. Under the rules, which came into force at the start of the year, carmakers must reduce average carbon dioxide emissions of vehicles sold in the EU below an average of 95g/km or face steep fines.

China is the world's key centre for battery manufacture. Of 442 companies involved in the automotive battery supply chain, 207 are based in China, according to the data supplier Marklines.

Honda yesterday said it was temporarily cutting production at its factory in Saitama, Japan, because of difficulties sourcing parts.

The British Formula One carmaker McLaren said it was flying in parts to bypass problems in its supply chain.

As well as supplies, the virus outbreak has hit carmakers' revenues. Sales have plummeted in China since quarantine conditions were imposed last month. European and US sales could also be affected as the virus spreads.

way people behave? We just don't know that really," he said.

Whiteside has said staff who have to self-isolate because of the virus would be paid. "Our default position is that we pay contract hours. We don't have zero-contract hours," he told the BBC.

Greggs has been a rare high street success story owing to a changing menu that has tapped into the growing popularity of plant-based diets. Despite the shift towards more vegan options, its pork sausage roll is still one of its bestsellers, with an average of 2.5m sold each week.

The company is now has 2,050 shops, up nearly 100 from the previous year, and is rolling out a delivery service in partnership with Just Eat. Greggs is considering paying another special dividend to shareholder after paying out £35.5m last year.

Its 25,000 staff each received a £300 "thank you" bonus in January, although some get to keep just a quarter as a result of universal credit deductions. Greggs said it would share a further £12.8m of profits with staff.

GREEN AND ETHICAL *checklist*

Commerce with a conscience – these environmentally-balanced businesses are run with strong principles, aiming to be good for the soul and the planet too

A search engine with a conscience

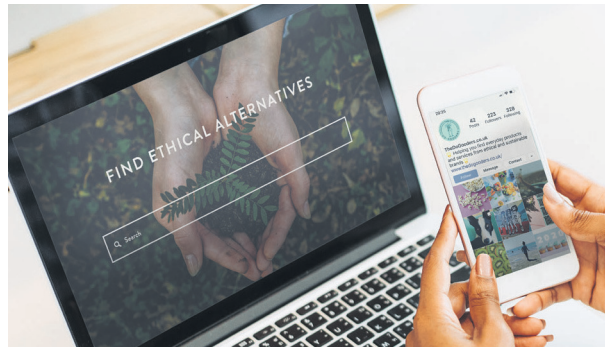
THE DO-GOODERS helps conscious consumers find ethical alternatives for products, services or activities with one search.

Unlike other platforms, this search engine doesn't prioritise brands based on the size of their marketing budget. Instead, it curates content based on purpose and impact.

Hundreds of ethical brands are listed under categories including fashion, food and drink, energy, beauty, banking, and many others.

The Do-Gooders makes it easy for you to use your purchasing power for good every day. Don't miss out on their Mother's Day gifts ideas page, with dozens of sustainable presents for this March 22.

This is a start-up with big ambitions to support a more sustainable economy by empowering fair trade, carbon-neutral,



ethically sourced, plastic-free and social impact brands. Search with a conscience and find ethical alternatives today.

To join the community of conscious consumers, visit thedogooders.co.uk
@@thedogooders_



Ethically sourced homewares from across the world



OVER 40 YEARS AGO, Ian Snow hitchhiked from Liverpool to India, starting a lifelong love affair with the country. After a few years and countless trips, he began selling Indian handmade textiles and

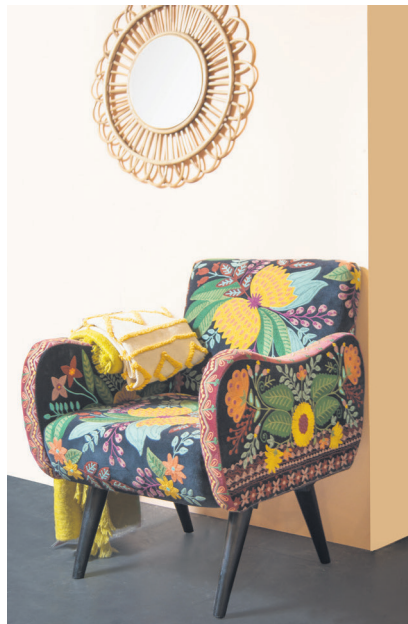
homewares on market stalls around the UK.

He met Jakki, who ran an incredible business selling clothes made from recycled fabric, she got involved with Ian, and slowly grew the business into a team of around 20.

Now, with daughters Daisy and India at the helm, the company has a large collection of ethically sourced homewares made by remarkable artisans from around the world.

The team are united by a passion for unmistakable style and with a consideration for people and planet. There's a lasting commitment to sustainable company practises, working hard on taking plastic out of the supply chain, fair trade and preserving traditional, age-old skills like hand-weaving and mehendi painting.

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More recently fears of the growth of broad-spectrum resistance of bacteria to antibiotics has led to the rediscovery of silver's efficacy in the fight against a range of infection.

Essential oils have also been used throughout the ages and are famed for their natural health properties. Nature's Greatest Secret has taken a selection of these exquisite and powerful oils and blended them with silver to bring you a range of natural, vegan-friendly, effective health products. These products come as sanitisers, hand gels, creams, and sprays and can be used to help prevent and resist health conditions.



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Freshen up your look with The Clean Hub's beauty must-haves



THE CLEAN HUB IS THE UK'S PREMIER natural and eco-friendly online beauty store. Not only is it a one-

stop-shop for all natural and organic skincare and makeup products, but it also provides bespoke beauty routines for customers.

On average women touch around 515 different synthetic ingredients in their daily beauty routine, whilst men touch 85. With that in mind, The Clean Hub launched in 2017 to help people live healthier lives by providing beauty products and personalised routines that excluded toxins and synthetic ingredients!

Tell us about the gifts and personalised boxes? The Clean Hub works with an aesthetician to provide tailored skincare and makeup routines. All you have to do is email them to get started! They provide personalised gift boxes for ageing skin, acne prone skin or those just looking for vegan beauty products – the perfect gift!

Tell us about The Clean Hub products? Their best-selling product is the Hynt Beauty concealer £24 (made with jojoba oil and flower wax) which continues to be the best under eye or spot cover up for beauty lovers! A second favourite is the Big Lash Vegan Mascara by Lily Lolo £13.50 (also made with flower wax).



To give you a spring into clean beauty, The Clean Hub is offering 20% off all products as well as a free gift with every purchase until 15 March. Go to thecleanhub.com now and enter code CHECKLIST20 for 20% off and get your gift valued at £10. Drop the team an email for your own free tailored natural beauty routine or for any further questions at info@thecleanhub.com

Hats off to a whole new tea-drinking experience



BORED OF YOUR GO-TO, everyday cuppa? Switch up what's inside your morning brew with Hatter's Hemp Tea. Sit back, put your feet up, take a minute and relax with a comforting brew, made for you.

Blending the nation's favourites with a unique, wellbeing twist, the range includes a variety of delicious flavours from English Breakfast to Green Tea. Each cup of Hatter's Hemp Tea contains CBD-rich hemp and is filled to the brim with natural, warming goodness.

CBD-rich hemp is the powerhouse ingredient of the moment and a quick cuppa is an easy way to combine it into your diet.

Lemongrass and Rosehip Tea is a great addition to any early morning routine and Chamomile Tea is perfect before bedtime to help with your transition into deep sleep. Power up your day with the energising and fresh Green Tea or settle down with your favourite book and a pot of English Breakfast Tea on a rainy day. Whatever your mood, there's a brew for every you.

All Hatter's Hemp Tea flavours are suitable for vegans and if you're looking for a sweeter option, each flavour tastes delicious when teamed with sweet agave nectar.

All four delicious flavours by Hatter's Hemp Tea are now available in store and online at Holland & Barratt.

Planting the seed – vegan shopping made easy with online platform showcasing cruelty-free products

JUMPING ON THE vegan bandwagon? Make going animal free that bit easier thanks to crazy-bean.com, an online vegan marketplace where plant-based producers can set up a shop and sell their products to new customers for free.

Due to a huge increase in demand for all kinds of vegan products, founder Krissi wanted to help new businesses grow and meet new customers. With a background in digital products and technology she decided to build an online marketplace where sellers can increase sales and start to communicate with their customers to understand their needs better.

Crazy-bean.com is not just a platform, they also want to help small businesses with their everyday challenges and so also offers sellers a community where they can discuss start up challenges and solutions. In time crazy-bean.com plans to provide more services to



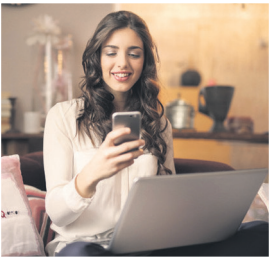
businesses to help them to grow.

The best part is when you shop on crazy-bean.com is that all of your money goes to the hard-working sellers, as crazy-bean.com doesn't take any commission at all. So you are truly supporting independent businesses.

Crazy-bean.com is growing every week and now has products available across a number of verticals including food and snacks, fashion, gifts, accessories, shoes, sweets and chocolates. The website can also supply treats and gifts for your corporate event or wedding – simply get in touch for details through the website.

Crazy-bean.com is currently UK-wide but have plans to expand into Europe and US this year.

You can start shopping now or sign up as a seller *crazy-bean.com*



Polish up! Eco-friendly bamboo brushes designed for comfort

DID YOU KNOW that over 150 million plastic toothbrushes are bought every year in the UK. That's over 3,000 tonnes of plastic from toothbrushes alone that ends up in landfill or the ocean. It can take over 1,000 years for these toothbrushes to decompose, which is awful for the environment.

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Bamboo is the fastest-growing plant in the world and can grow up to a meter a day without fertiliser, making it highly sustainable and eco-friendly.

These toothbrushes are made with sustainably grown moso bamboo, which is the type of bamboo pandas don't eat. This means you can enjoy these products while knowing



that they aren't destroying precious habitats all around the world.



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The raw material comes from organically grown and fully sustainable bamboo which grows freely and is fed simply by natural



rainfall, needing no chemicals or fertilisers.

Bamboo has many health properties including being hypo-allergenic, antimicrobial and antibacterial. It is therefore suitable for those with allergies, asthma, eczema, sensitive skin, night sweats, menopausal symptoms and many other conditions, whilst not actually curing any of these conditions bamboo will not exacerbate them. The range includes sheets, duvets, duvet covers, mattress protectors and pillows, available in seven colours and five bed sizes.

Find out more at *paragonbamboo.com*



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HOTFOOT IT OVER to Conker, a small independent family-run business that has been producing quality footwear since 1977.

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Because of Conker's made to order practice, your shoes can be as classic or creative as you can imagine with the company's range of over 50 leathers. Check out Conker's website gallery or Instagram for inspiration. The company's customer sizing notes are kept on file so it's easy

to reorder favourite styles as well as new ones.

Conker prides itself in making long-lasting, comfortable and sustainable footwear, which can be resoled and repaired when the time comes, significantly extending their life and reducing your footprint on the planet.

Conker also makes belts, bags and other leather accessories, which can also be made to order, and stock ethically sourced Fair Trade clothing. If you are unable to visit the shop, there are many options online. Conker can even send leather samples to you so you can get a little bit of that Conker feel at home.

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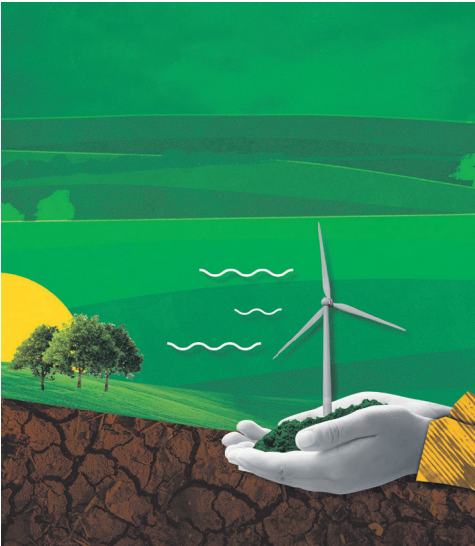
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Interview: Pali Hungin

'We can't replace doctors with technology alone'

The head of a project looking at the future of medics says their role will remain vital

Hélène Mulholland

Imagine a world where the doctors we see today no longer exist. This is what Professor Pali Hungin, who heads up the the Changing Face of Medicine (CFM) project, is grappling with as rapid societal and technological developments outpace traditional medical training. Gone are the days of passive patients with low expectations; 20 years ago, for example, few of us would have imagined that we would be seeking health advice from mobile phone devices. Meanwhile, technology, artificial intelligence, and other new sciences, such as genomics, are altering medicine fast.

"There is a thought that looking into the distant future, the doctor as a professional as trained today may not need to exist. So a person who is not well may see a diagnostician who needn't necessarily be trained traditionally as a doctor," says Hungin. "The diagnostician may be armed with AI and machine learning technology, and might be able to take the necessary steps."

The CFM project is less a case of turkeys voting for Christmas, and more an acute awareness that sociological and technological shifts have put doctors under severe strain. Hungin believes the profession is in a transitional phase and heading towards a "completely different world". Set up 18 months ago, it's a collaboration hosted by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges.

The medical profession has always adapted to change, says Hungin, but it is being overtaken by certain developments that are leading to

symptoms of "dissonance" such as disillusionment and burnout. Doctors "have been struggling to find a role for ourselves in this new age," he says.

Hungin cites a survey conducted last year by the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund, of which he is a trustee, which found that a high proportion of doctors would discourage their children from going into medicine. Why? Because they found it an unfulfilling, difficult and stressful career, he says.

Hungin's medical record dates back to 1970, when he arrived from Kenya to study medicine at Newcastle University, where he is now emeritus professor of general practice. He trained as a GP, later juggling the role with a range of academic endeavours. In 2016, he used his tenure as president of the British Medical Association to lead a year-long international project into the impact of the fast-changing environment on doctors' sense of vocation, their professional values and their relationship with patients and the public.

He has continued this through the CFM commission, which has working groups looking at public-patient-doctor engagement; technology, informatics and AI; clinician wellbeing; rethinking medical education and leadership.

The health secretary, Matt Hancock, wants the NHS to be more tech-focused. Last summer, Boris Johnson announced £250m for the use of AI in the NHS. Hungin welcomes the funding, but says that this emphasis "might start to detract" from the importance of investing in the human element of healthcare. The greater the technological leaps, the greater the need for human contact to help people make sense of their difficulties, their diagnosis and their most appropriate course of action, the commission has found.

Hungin doesn't believe that doctors will become obsolete, but they will be a "highly modified" version of the ones we recognise today. He also thinks we will have to manage with fewer of them.

"We know that the public and patients appreciate having someone else to have an interaction with, and we can't replace that someone else with technology alone," he says. "Whether that person needs to be a traditionally trained doctor is a reasonable question to ask."

Yet youngsters who aspire to become doctors have no reason to feel downcast. Hungin insists that this is "the most exciting time" to train as a doctor, because genomics and the like will help patients receive highly personalised care.

Would he recommend the route to any future grandchildren? "Yes. Undoubtedly so," he replies. "If I had the opportunity to retrain as a doctor now, I would grab it."



▲ Pali Hungin: 'It's a different world'
PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTIAN SINIBALDI/GUARDIAN



Child protection

In close-up: how Germany fails its troubled children

Unflinching new film has lessons for UK professionals working with at-risk youngsters

Philip Oltermann

Nora Fingscheidt's film *System Crasher* starts with a doctor asking nine-year-old Benni what she wants to be when she grows up. "A carer," she says, flashing a disarming, snaggle-toothed smile.

But Fingscheidt only briefly warms our hearts before her

fearlessly realistic drama about Germany's child protection services shows why Benni spends a lot of time in hospitals. The pre-teen punches, kicks and spits at kids in the playground of a children's home until the care workers evacuate the inner courtyard and retreat indoors. "Assholes! Piss off!" screams the raging Benni as she hurls go-karts at the adults hiding behind shatterproof glass.

The term "system crusher" has its roots in academia but is nowadays commonly used all over the German care system. According to Menno Baumann, a specialist who wrote a book that coined the term and who was consulted by Fingscheidt in the making of the film, system crushers are "high-risk clientele who

are caught in a spiral of negative interactions with the care system, educational establishments and society as a whole".

In Benni's case, it means a girl who has ended up in child protection services because her mother, now in a new relationship with new children, says she cannot cope with her high-energy firstborn. There are hints of a traumatic early childhood - one of her care workers mentions used nappies being thrust in her face as a baby. But equally unsettling are her mother's promises, always withdrawn at the 11th hour, that Benni might be able to live with the family again after all.

As a result, she gets bounced between various institutions: foster families, living groups, a

▼ *Nine-year-old Benni (Helena Zengel), a 'problem child' whose story is told in German film System Crasher*
PHOTOGRAPH: KINEO FILM/WEYDEMAN BROS



special needs school. Whenever an emotional bond starts to form, Benni lashes out, for fear of reliving the painful rejection she experienced from her parents.

Fingscheidt spent five years researching conditions for “problem children” in Germany, staying at care homes and psychiatric wards around the country for two to three weeks at a time. “I wanted to know: how do people speak to each other in these places? How do they speak to children?” she says.

During one of these visits, she met an 11-year-old boy who had already lived in 52 different care institutions. “That made me stop and think,” says Fingscheidt. “What does it do to people? What does it do to their souls? If I had to move home twice in a year that would be enough to make me feel I am losing a grip on my life.

“Benni isn’t a boy, she’s not in puberty, she doesn’t have a migration background, she didn’t grow up in a Berlin high-rise. Benni is a German girl with blond hair from a medium-sized city like Hanover. I wanted to take away the social factors that might be used to explain her behaviour,” says Fingscheidt.

She used the term “system crasher” as the title even though she wasn’t convinced it quite captured the problem: “The child

‘Researching the film made me think: what does it do to people to keep moving home? What does it do to their souls?’

Nora Fingscheidt
Director, *System Crasher*

doesn’t break the system, because the system continues to exist. It’s more the fact that the system cannot protect some children, and that they fall into bad ways as a result.”

“The system” is, to an extent, a specifically German one. Unlike in the UK, where residential care is usually seen as the last resort for looked-after children, in Germany around 70% of children in care live in charity-run residential homes or supported housing. Social workers are usually graduates trained in pedagogy, in the expectation that they can transform young people’s lives for the better.

“The state in our country keeps on trying to come up with new strategies for helping young people like Benni,” says Baumann.

“All democratic countries with a welfare state struggle with people like Benni, but it’s probably fair to say that in countries like Britain or the US she would have ended up in a psychiatric hospital or a prison much sooner.”

Germany has one of the highest rates for reintegrating problematic young people, and educational attainment and employment rates among care leavers are higher than in the UK – and crime rates significantly lower. “But the helplessness of the helpers that we see in this film is also a sign that Germany’s very ambitious system has developed its own problems,” says Baumann.

In *System Crasher*, there is a moment of hope when Micha, a young anger-management trainer for troubled young people, takes over as Benni’s school escort. During a three-week stay in a forest hut without electricity and running water, the pair begin to gel and Benni slowly lets down her guard.

When they return to civilisation, Benni clings to Micha and asks why he can’t be her father. He realises he is losing his professional distance. “I am developing saviour fantasies,” he tells the case worker in charge of Benni’s zigzagging path through the institutions.

Ahead of the film’s UK release, the Association of Child Protection Professionals has held two screenings for an invited audience of policymakers. Wendy Thorogood, chair of the association, says despite the differences between the British and German systems, there are lessons for health workers, the police, social workers and volunteers working with children in the UK. “We clearly see the professionals asking the wrong questions. The film is a non-threatening way to explore issues around where we are going wrong and how we can improve.

“We are seeing more and more complex cases at an earlier age, like Benni, badged as mental health when there are also social problems,” says Thorogood.

The positive reception the film has received at festivals around the world has made the director consider whether *System Crasher* was always about a universal question. “What happens to people when they are being denied the right to unconditional love?”

System Crasher is released in UK cinemas on 27 March

Stewart Dakers
Grey matters



The coronavirus is less of a threat than living in a country without care

If someone’s going to make my breakfast, I want a full English, geddit!” In the community centre cafe, Charlie’s contribution to discussions about immigration policy on care workers was not the only voice with a hint of xenophobia. Like Cecil for instance: “They’re all foreigners, don’t understand our ways.”

Spot on, though not in the way he meant. The care staff who make our breakfasts and wipe our bottoms don’t understand our ways, because many of them come from cultures that view the dislocation of elderly people from their families, the outsourcing of their care to paid strangers as barbaric. “Who’s going to replace them, that’s what scares me.” Elizabeth is known for her honesty: there’s not exactly a queue for care jobs.

“I’m more scared of this virus thing, corona whasit, and if there’s fewer carers, well...” Joyce this time. Cecil scoffs, pointing out that there’s a flu epidemic every winter, a sanguine recognition that all of us crumbles are headed for the exit. We are less afraid of being dead than we are of the process of dying. The care worker is the only human buffer between us and the indignity of the final process. We uber-old

are a novelty. Longevity requires of those who care for us a portfolio of skills for which there is no accredited prior learning.

That, for me, is the real issue. To describe care work as “low-skilled” reveals a serious misconception: there is no issue about which the inhabitants of the palace of Westminster are more illiterate than social care.

Politicians do not appreciate that care goes beyond bodily hygiene: it is essential to wellbeing, especially during the present coronavirus crisis, when carers can serve as frontline diagnosticians of infection.

I am graduating from slipped pantaloons into zimmered malcontent. Caring for me will require a much higher level of patience and humanity than that required to stack shelves in supermarkets. By equating them, the political establishment reveals an alarming illiteracy about civic values.

Faced with the prospect of a decade of undignified deterioration in a “care-less” society run by emotional illiterates, if I am honest, I do not find the possibility of an early Covid-19-induced departure quite so daunting.

Stewart Dakers is an 81-year-old community worker

Clare in the community Harry Venning



Public Health, Taunton

Consultant in Public Health

37 hours

Salary: NHS Agenda for Change Band 8d

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To apply visit www.somerset.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/our-vacancies/ and scroll down to Consultant in Public Health

*Department for Transport***A30 CHIVERTON TO CARLAND CROSS DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER 2020****THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017****NOTICE OF A DECISION ON AN APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR EIA DEVELOPMENT**

The Secretary of State for Transport ("the Secretary of State") gives notice under regulation 31(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 that a determination has been made on an application made by Highways England ("the Applicant") for development consent under the Planning Act 2008 ("the 2008 Act") for Environmental Impact Assessment development.

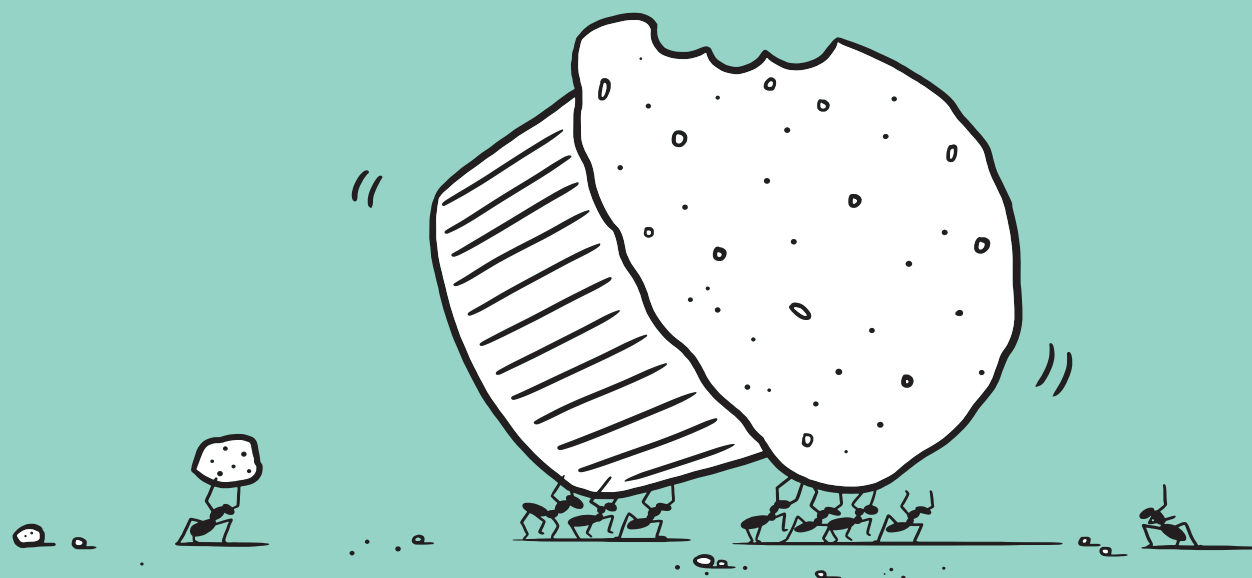
The application was for construction of a 14 kilometre (8.7 mile) 70mph dual carriageway, connecting to the existing A30 dual carriageway at either end. The proposal includes the replacement of Chiverton Cross roundabout with a new, 2 level motorway style roundabout; a new 2 level partial junction at Chybucca, with westfacing slip roads connecting to the new dual carriageway; replacement of the existing roundabout at Carland Cross with a 2 level motorway style junction; and new bridges and accesses across the proposed road and the existing A30.

The Secretary of State has determined, following consideration of the report of the Examining Authority which conducted an examination into the Application, that development consent should be granted and has decided, therefore, to make an Order under sections 114, 115 and 120 of the 2008 Act.

The statement of reasons for deciding to make an Order granting development consent, which has been prepared by the Secretary of State under section 116 of the 2008 Act and regulation 31(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, containing the content of the decision, the requirements imposed in connection with the development, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision is based including relevant information about the participation of the public, a description of the main features to avoid, reduce and offset any major adverse effects of the development and information regarding the right to challenge the decision and the procedures for doing so, is published on the Planning Inspectorate's web site: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a30-chiverton-to-carland-cross-scheme/>

It is also available in the following location: The Planning Inspectorate National Infrastructure Directorate, Temple Quay House, Bristol BS1 6PN. To make an appointment for inspection of the documents contact the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000 or email NIEnquiries@pins.gsi.gov.uk

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Weather

Wednesday 4 March 2020

UK and Ireland Noon today

Sunny

Mist

Fog

Sunny intervals

Hazy

Mostly cloudy

Overcast/dull

Sunny showers

Sunny and heavy showers

Light showers

Rain

Sleet

Light snow

Snow showers

Heavy snow

Ice

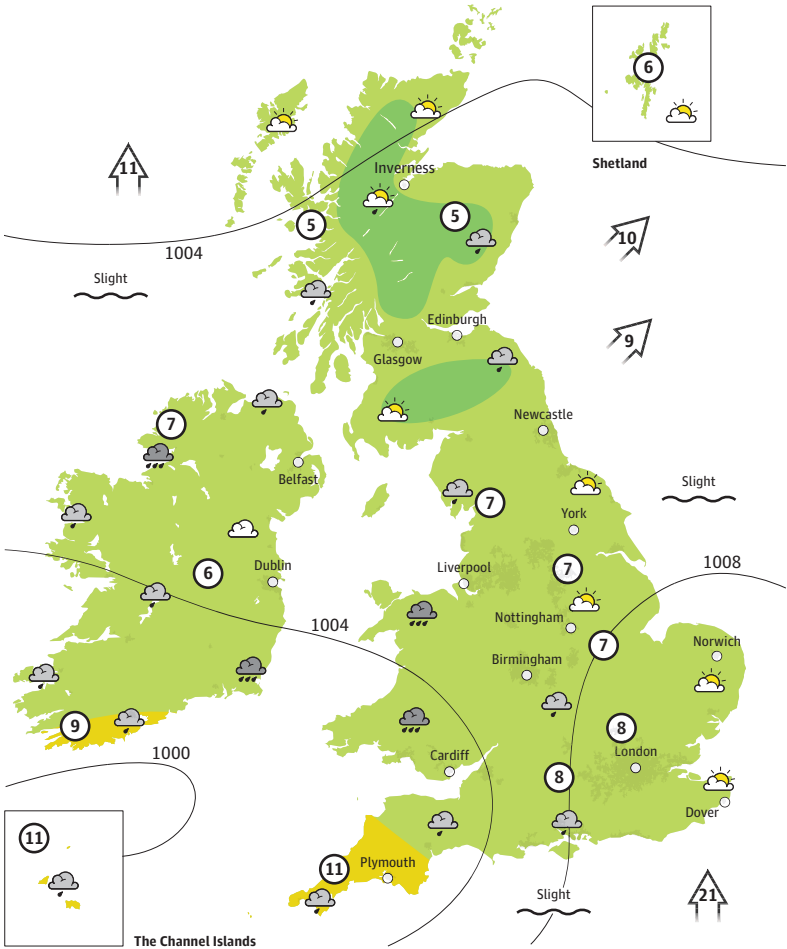
Thundery rain

Thundery showers

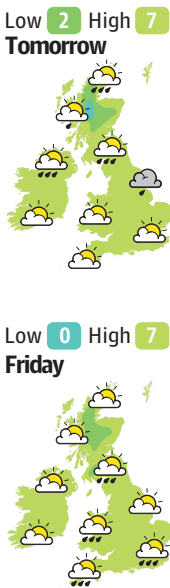
Temperature, °C

Wind speed, mph

Windy



Forecast



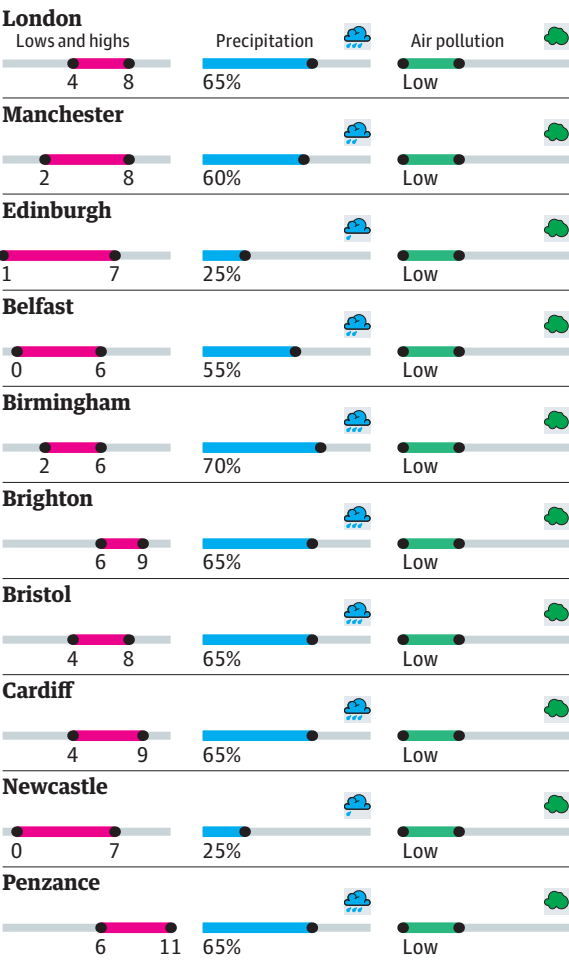
Carbon count

Daily atmospheric CO₂ readings from Mauna Loa, Hawaii (ppm):

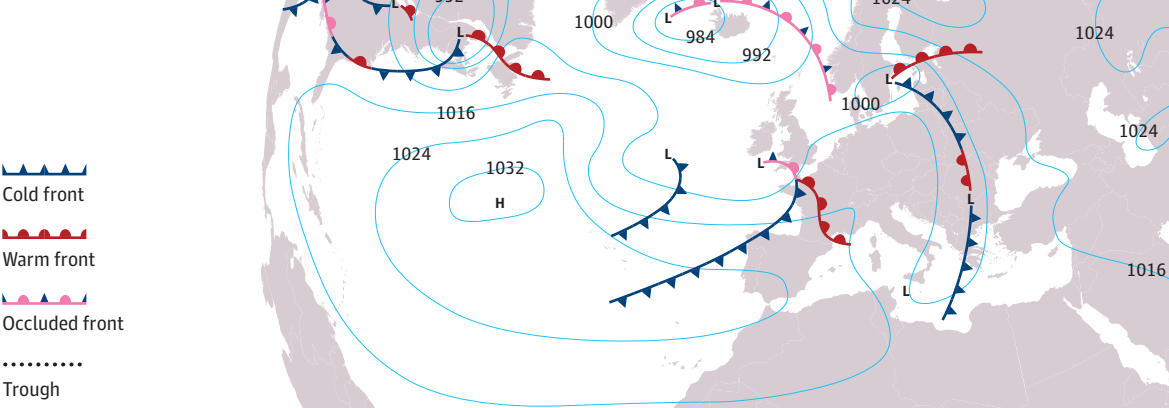
Latest	413.72
Weekly average	413.72
23 Feb 2020	413.72
03 Mar 2019	412.25
03 Mar 2010	388.72
Pre-industrial base	280
Safe level	350

Source: NOAA-ESRL

Around the UK



Atlantic front



High tides

Aberdeen	0815	3.3m	2049	3.3m
Avonmouth	0046	9.9m	1331	9.6m
Barrow	0543	6.9m	1829	7.0m
Belfast	0551	2.8m	1821	2.8m
Cobh	--	--	1206	3.2m
Cromer	0027	3.8m	1331	3.7m
Dover	0505	5.2m	1831	5.1m
Dublin	0627	3.1m	1904	3.2m
Galway	--	--	1212	3.8m
Greenock	0628	2.8m	1922	2.7m
Harwich	0601	3.2m	1842	3.1m
Holyhead	0454	4.3m	1741	4.3m
Hull	0007	5.9m	1242	5.7m
Leith	0925	4.2m	2159	4.3m
Liverpool	0522	7.1m	1810	7.1m

London Bridge	0743	5.8m	2031	5.5m
Lossiemouth	0618	3.0m	1849	3.0m
Milford Haven	0003	5.1m	1254	5.0m
Newquay	--	--	1153	5.1m
North Shields	1017	3.8m	2254	3.9m
Oban	--	--	1347	2.8m
Penzance	--	--	1118	4.1m
Plymouth	--	--	1208	4.2m
Portsmouth	0549	3.7m	1832	3.6m
Southport	0428	6.8m	1711	6.8m
Stornoway	0149	3.5m	1430	3.5m
Weymouth	0051	0.6m	1329	0.5m
Whitby	1047	4.2m	2325	4.3m
Wick	0553	2.6m	1830	2.7m
Workington	0550	6.2m	1836	6.2m

Sun & Moon

Sun rises 0638
Sun sets 1746
Moon rises 1116
Moon sets 0315
Full Moon 9 March

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather ©2020

Lighting up

Belfast	1808 to 0704
Birm'ham	1752 to 0644
Brighton	1748 to 0636
Bristol	1757 to 0646
Carlisle	1754 to 0650
Cork	1820 to 0710
Dublin	1809 to 0703
Glasgow	1759 to 0658
Harlech	1801 to 0653
Inverness	1756 to 0658
London	1746 to 0635
M'chester	1754 to 0647
Newcastle	1749 to 0646
Norwich	1740 to 0632
Penzance	1810 to 0657

Terrawatch

Icelandic volcanoes have only to twitch to find themselves plastered with instruments. Right now activity in the Reykjanes peninsula, a lesser-known volcanic region in the south-west, is causing excitement. Situated near the town of Grindavik, and only nine miles (15km) from Iceland's international airport, the area has not seen an eruption for 800 years - although there have been more recent eruptions offshore.

Since 21 January the region has been peppered with earthquakes, the ground has risen by as much as 5cm, and caves have filled with carbon dioxide, prompting a warning from the Icelandic Met Office. This surface activity suggests magma is accumulating in the crust, around two to three miles below.

The data suggests the magma will stay put, but there is a chance it will find its way to the surface.

Based on previous behaviour, this area would put on a lazy show. "We'd expect a fissure to open and fire fountains to erupt - Icelanders often call these gentle effusions of lava 'tourist eruptions'," says Dave McGarvie, a volcanologist at Lancaster University. But if it burst through water, like the Blue Lagoon, it would produce an explosive spectacle. **Kate Ravilious**

Around the world

Algiers	20	Lisbon	18
Ams'dam	8	Madrid	18
Athens	16	Malaga	23
Auckland	25	Melb'rne	23
B Aires	29	Mexico C	27
Bangkok	35	Miami	30
Barcelona	15	Milan	13
Basra	25	Mombasa	32
Beijing	8	Moscow	7
Berlin	7	Mumbai	30
Bermuda	21	N Orleans	25
Brussels	8	Nairobi	27
Budapest	8	New Delhi	27
C'hagen	6	New York	12
Cairo	27	Oslo	2
Cape Town	27	Paris	8
Chicago	9	Perth	30
Corfu	15	Prague	7
Dakar	27	Reykjavik	1
Dhaka	31	Rio de J	26
Dublin	6	Rome	15
Florence	12	Shanghai	12
Gibraltar	20	Singapore	31
H Kong	23	Stockh'm	3
Harare	21	Strasb'g	10
Helsinki	3	Sydney	25
Istanbul	18	Tel Aviv	25
Jo'burg	25	Tenerife	24
K Lumpur	35	Tokyo	11
K'mandu	21	Toronto	4
Kabul	10	Vancouv'r	8
Kingston	31	Vienna	10
Kolkata	28	Warsaw	8
L Angeles	22	Wash'ton	16
Lagos	32	Well'ton	16
Lima	26	Zurich	8

Cricket

England ready to face down India in T20 semi-finals

Page 44 →

Football

Dawn of a new era: Scott right at home with Lionesses

Page 46 →



Sport



▲ Eva Szekely on her way to victory in the 200m breaststroke final at the Helsinki Olympic Games in 1952
SPORT AND GENERAL/S&G AND BARRATTS/EMPICS SPORT

Golden wonder
Holocaust survivor to
Olympic champion:
the remarkable life
of Eva Szekely

Andy Bull



The fascists came for Eva Szekely in the winter of 1944 when she was 17. “I was told to lie down and say I was sick,” she remembered. “‘Come on! Get going!’” their leader shouted. “Then my dad told him: ‘She is sick, can’t you see, she cannot walk!’ and he said back: ‘She doesn’t have to walk far.’” Only to the nearby banks of the Danube, where they were doing the killing. “And then from some heavenly influence my dad said: ‘Don’t take her, she is the swimming champion of Hungary, and one day you will be happy you saved her life. Tell him your name.’ And he looked at me, and I looked at him,” he had one grey eye and one brown eye, “and I said my name.

“This is how I stayed alive, that Dad told him I was a swimming champion and he would still remember me.” Szekely died last Saturday. She was 92. She broke six world records, won 44 national titles, a gold in the 200m breaststroke at the Helsinki Olympics in 1952 and a silver in the same event at Melbourne in 1956. “Despite my successes I was regularly defeated on one point,” she wrote later. “No community ever embraced me fully, although I felt in my heart and soul I was part of my community it was always made known to me that I was an outsider.”

Szekely decided she wanted to be a swimmer in 1936, while she was listening to the coverage of the Berlin Olympics. She heard Ferenc Csik win the 100m freestyle. “Then and there I made a resolution – I, too, would be an Olympic champion.” She joined her local sports club, and soon after was part of the team who won a national open water title. Two months later she was kicked out for being “an undesirable”. She was 14 but already used to antisemitism. At school she had fought with a boy who

had drawn a cartoon “Erger, Berger, Schossberger – every Jew is a scoundrel! Get out!”

Her father told her it was only temporary. “I was a Hungarian and when all the madness was over one’s religion would make no difference.” But for the next five years “the madness reigned”. She was banned from competing. Still, she grew more obsessed with her childhood dream. It became her reason to live. When the Germans came “they decided we should be exterminated, I decided I should win the Olympics”. She was recruited into a labour battalion but escaped by leaping onto a passing streetcar during a forced march through the city. She returned to her family, who were now living in a two-room safe house.

Szekely kept fit by running the stairs, five storeys up, five storeys down, 100 times a day. They called it a safe house, it wasn’t. There were 42 people living in those two rooms. By the time they were liberated there were only 10 left alive. When Szekely won her gold in 1952 she wasn’t just swimming for herself but for those 32, the thousands more who were shot on the banks of the Danube and the millions more who died in the camps.

She married the great water polo player Dezso Gyarmati, who led Hungary to victory in three Olympics in 1952, 1956, and 1964. For the second of those Games, in Melbourne, the couple left their baby daughter Andrea behind in Budapest. The revolution broke out while they were away. Szekely was so sick with worry she lost 5kg fretting. She still won silver. Next year the family defected to the US but they didn’t stay. They returned home to look after her parents. And after that the authorities said only one of them would be allowed to travel to the 1960 Olympics in Rome.

So Szekely quit swimming, and became a coach. Her philosophy was that “sport was a gift and a reward, not a job”. Her daughter grew up to be an Olympic medallist herself. She won silver in the 100m backstroke and bronze in the 100m fly at Munich in 1972. Eva was there with her during the Black September massacre. She had even had coffee with one of the victims, the wrestling coach Moshe Weinberg, the morning before he was killed trying to fight off the terrorists. He had told her he had not wanted to go to Germany but “the boys had begged him to come.” He died trying to protect them.

In the years afterwards, Szekely made a point of speaking out about her experiences. According to the Encyclopedia of Jewish Women, “while few, if any, active or retired Hungarian Jewish athletes were open about their religious identity, Szekely had the courage and determination to go public with her Jewishness”.

In one TV interview she spoke about the anti-Jewish laws of the 1940s and referred to “those who could document non-Jewish origin as far back as their grandparents. “That was no problem for me, I did not have to go back as far as my grandparents. Unequivocally, I was a Jew.”

In 2004 Szekely was named as one of Hungary’s Athletes of the Nation. In 2011 she received a prestigious Prima Primissima award. Did that make her finally feel embraced? In 2017 she was alive to see Viktor Orban’s antisemitic attacks on George Soros, part of a rising tide of antisemitism across Europe and in Hungary in particular.

One last story. In 1950 Szekely took part in an international meet on Margaret Island in Budapest. “I swam very, very well there. When they announced the winners of the 100m freestyle I stood up. They said the gold medal would be given to me by the chairman of the swimming association and a special prize would be given to me by the major of the communist political police. And, imagine, there I was standing on the top of the dais with a vase in my hands and the man looks at me ...” She realised she had seen him before when she looked into his eyes, one grey and one brown.

‘Dad told them: “Don’t take her, she is a swimming champion, you will be happy you saved her”’

Sport
Cricket

▼ Sarah Glenn (centre)
played her first game for
England in December
CAMERON SPENCER/GETTY



Women's T20 World Cup

England momentum can take us into final, says 'buzzing' Glenn

Raf Nicholson
Sydney

As England prepared to face India in the semi-final of the Twenty20 World Cup in Sydney tomorrow, the leg-spinner Sarah Glenn said the team are feeling confident after winning by margins of 98 runs, 42 runs and 46 runs in their past three group matches.

"We didn't get off to a great start against South Africa, so to then punch back against Thailand and carry the momentum into every game since then, and then to finish off with a win in the group stages was really nice", Glenn said. "And we didn't just scrape a win against West Indies - we



▲ India's Poonam Yadav is the tournament's leading wicket-taker

were quite dominating. So we're all buzzing really."

Glenn, who at 20 is playing in her first World Cup, has been one of the success stories for England, with six wickets across the group stages, including a return of three for 15

in their must-win matches against Pakistan in Canberra.

She is now gearing up for the biggest match of her fledgling international career, which began only three months ago against Pakistan in Malaysia, and said the tournament has helped confirm she made the right decision to quit hockey, which she played internationally at junior level, in favour of cricket.

"I'm very happy with my decision. I'm excited to be part of this team," she said. "The expectation of playing in a semi-final is quite daunting but I'm just excited to be here. We're prepared for whatever is thrown at us."

The match will be a repeat of the 2018 tournament semi-final, which England won by eight wickets courtesy of half-centuries from Nat Sciver and Amy Jones. Sciver has hit three half-centuries in this tournament and is the overall leading run-scorer with 202. Jones, meanwhile, is relishing her newly adopted "finisher" position, having dropped down from the opener spot to bat at No 6 against West Indies, against whom she contributed 23 from 13 balls.

For England the biggest call for the captain, Heather Knight, will be whether to continue with a three-pronged spin attack, as they did against

West Indies on Sunday, or to omit the off-spinner Mady Villiers in favour of an extra batter, Lauren Winfield, who played in the first three group matches but faced only five balls. Though the SCG has a reputation for producing slow wickets, England's decision will likely not be made until the last minute, given that rain is forecast. "The weather's quite unpredictable at the moment, so we've just got to see on the day what we think it will play like," Glenn said.

India have already shown themselves a force to be reckoned with, finishing top of their group after a shock 17-run win against reigning champions Australia in the opening match. The star of that performance was the leg-spinner Poonam Yadav, who is also the tournament's leading wicket-taker.

She is likely to prove a formidable threat to the England batting lineup, who aside from Sciver and Knight have generally underperformed. India's 16-year-old opening batter Shafali Verma, whose 161 runs have come at the phenomenal strike rate of 161, will also threaten England's chances of progressing to the final, which takes place at the MCG on Sunday 8 March.

Glenn said England are taking heart from their most recent encounter against India, in February during their tri-series with Australia. England restricted them to 123 for six and chased down the runs with an over and four wickets to spare.

"They're a top team with a lot of talent but the fact we got to play them in the tri-series and win a match against them really helps our confidence," Glenn said.

One concern for England will be the weather, which yesterday wiped out the final game of Group B between South Africa and West Indies. There is no reserve day for either semi-final, which means England, who finished second in their group, would be automatically knocked out should the encounter be a washout.

The denouement

Semi-finals

India* v England

Thursday, 4am, SCG

South Africa* v Australia

Thursday, 8am, SCG

The final

Sunday, 7am, MCG

*Will qualify for final if semi-final washed out

All games live on Sky Sports Cricket



▲ Players from the eight teams who will contest the Hundred this summer

The Hundred prize money to be split equally by gender

Ali Martin

A £600,000 prize pool will be split evenly between the men's and women's competitions in the Hundred this summer. The England and Wales Cricket Board has announced that both competitions will be worth £300,000 in prize money, with the winning men's and women's teams earning £150,000 each, the runners-up £75,000, as well as an even split for various player awards.

The governing body has described the prize pool as "a step towards the long-term commitment to making cricket a gender-balanced sport", as part of a pledge to invest £20m in the women's game in the next two years. The matched prize money also mirrors the ICC Women's T20 World Cup where, like the men's tournament in October, the winning team in Melbourne on Sunday will take home £770,000. Australia's Big Bash League also has a total prize pot of £335,000 shared evenly across the men's and women's competitions.

Like both these short-form tournaments there is a caveat in terms of the wage disparity in the Hundred, where the average contract for female players is £8,000 compared to £66,600 for the men. This gulf was highlighted when eight female marquee players were named last October, including the Australia captain Meg Lanning and South Africa's Dane van Niekerk, on deals worth £15,000 each, less combined than the £125,000 one top-tier male player makes.

The ECB acknowledges the gap, at least, and insists the eight-team tournament is aimed at closing this gap over time depending on the success of the new eight-team 100-ball format.

Beth Barrett-Wild, the head of the Hundred women's competition, said: "While we're aware there is more to do in this space, this is an important step in the right direction. It's recognition for the women's players and the huge value they bring to the Hundred."

"The ECB is committed to transforming women's and girls' cricket, from inspiring young girls to pick up a bat for the first time, through to establishing the women's game as a professional career option."

Prize money (men and women) winning team £150k, runners-up £75k, third £50k, MVP £10k, leading run-scorer £5k, wicket-taker £5k, fielder £5k.
Collective squad salaries men £1m, women £120k.
Salary bands: Men £125k, £100k, £75k, £60k, £50k, £40k, £30k. Captaincy bonus: £10k. Women £15k, £12k, £9k, £7.2k, £6k, £4.8k and £3.6k. Captaincy bonus: £1.2k.

Cycling

Froome leads tributes after Portal's sudden death at home

Ed Aarons

Chris Froome has led the tributes to Nicolas Portal after the sporting director at Team Ineos died yesterday aged just 40.

Portal, a former cyclist who rode for Team Sky at the end of his career before the Frenchman remained with them after retiring in 2011, was part of the backroom team which has helped Froome to win all four of his Tour de France titles.

"My thoughts are with Nico's wife and children tonight," Froome tweeted. "He was the kindest, happiest guy I knew and always lived life to the fullest. Rest In Peace Nico."

A statement from Team Ineos confirmed that Portal had "died suddenly" at his home in Andorra. The French sports daily L'Equipe reported that



▲ Nicolas Portal spent one season riding for Team Sky before retiring

he died of cardiac arrest, with Portal known to have endured from a history of heart problems that forced him to miss most of the 2009 season because of cardiac arrhythmia.

"We are all overcome with grief at this terrible news and would ask everyone to respect the family's privacy at this difficult time," the statement read. "RIP Nico - your spirit will always be with us on the road and you will forever be in our hearts."

Portal retired in 2010 after one season with Team Sky having previously won a stage victory at the Critérium du Dauphiné in 2004 and racing in seven grand tours. He went on to become an important cog in the team which dominated the Tour until changing name to Team Ineos last year.

Biggar's mastery of rapid recovery gives Wales perfect boost

Fly-half shrugs off knee injury to be in frame for Twickenham showdown

Paul Rees

Wales expect Dan Biggar to be fit to face England after the Northampton fly-half made a quicker than expected recovery from the knee injury that forced him off while playing against Saracens last weekend.

Biggar is known for his ability to overcome injury rapidly. Three years ago he failed to make the second half in Italy after damaging ribs but was defying medical opinion and playing again seven days later. Wales are prepared to give their one available experienced fly-half until Friday morning to prove his fitness for Saturday's Six Nations match at Twickenham.

"The initial signs are positive for Dan," said Sam Warburton, the breakdown coach who captained Wales to their last Six Nations victory at Twickenham in 2012. "He does not need a scan and the feedback from the physios has been good. It has put our selection on hold because we want to see how he goes on Wednesday and Thursday. We are confident at this stage that he will make it."

Wales also expect Liam Williams, who has not played since injuring an ankle in training before last October's World Cup semi-final against South Africa, to be available. George North, who will see an independent concussion expert after failing a head injury assessment against France, and Josh Navidi, who has yet to appear this championship after straining a hamstring, are also in the frame to play.

The champions lost the chance to retain their title after losing to France in Cardiff but Warburton said there would be no shortage of ambition at a ground where Wales have won only

twice in the Six Nations era, fewer than at any other ground.

"I remember when we won at Twickenham in 2012, Ryan Jones [the former Wales captain] told me to enjoy it because victories there are rare," Warburton said. "I thought not to worry and that we would come back and do it again but you learn the hard way that it is a very tough place to get a result: I had to settle for two wins there."

"It is my favourite place to play outside our own stadium and those who say the atmosphere at Twickenham is bad have not been there. I can't wait to get to the ground on Friday, have a look there with the kickers and then watch on Saturday. It has felt like a long two weeks after the France game but players need that time to recover. There is no way you can play five games like this in consecutive weeks."

"The championship has gone, which is devastating, because your only goal at the start is to win it, but we are not as down as you would think. The general consensus in the group was that we did not turn up in Ireland but that we left tries out there against France. There has been real pressure in training: we have to stick to the plan because we have the talent to get over the line."

Warburton expects the battle of the back rows to be a key feature. Wales selected the Lions trio of Ross Moriarty, Justin Tipuric and Taulupe Faletau in the last round, while England had two of the standout players in the World Cup, Sam Underhill and Tom Curry, and the in-form Courtney Lawes.

"I knew from day one Curry and Underhill would be top internationals players," Warburton said. "They are not talents any more, but big-game players, among the first names on the teamsheet. They are key to England's line speed and collision dominance in previous games. They both have instinct and are positionally very good. The back row is a matchup to look forward to, one of the biggest challenges both teams will face."

"I always got on with the English boys on a Lions tour. I particularly mixed well with the Sarries lads. I know Welsh fans want to hear of a huge rivalry but it is a game that means a huge amount to players and victory brings national pride."

▼ *Manu Tuilagi says his approach to chess is the same as rugby*
DAVID ROGERS/GETTY IMAGES



Grandmaster Tuilagi swaps brawn for pawns

England centre is dominating the chessboard in training and is now plotting how best to checkmate Wales

Robert Kitson

It has been a strange Six Nations but stand by for the most improbable news of the lot. A craze for playing chess - yes, chess - is sweeping through the England camp and there is an unexpected candidate for the grandmaster. Step forward Manu Tuilagi, vying to be English rugby's king of the chequered board.

Magnus Carlsen, the chess world champion, is not believed to be under imminent threat but, since taking up the game during the World Cup in Japan, Tuilagi has been brushing aside opponents almost as convincingly as he does on the field. Only the wing Jonny May is presenting much of an obstacle, with the pair on level terms heading into the championship's closing rounds.

According to Tuilagi's fellow centre Henry Slade, the rest of the

squad are mere pawns compared with the big man. "I have only played him a couple of times and it has lasted about 30 seconds each time," Slade said. "He is unbelievable at it."

"Once he starts something he wants to be really good and he has put a lot of hours into it. I haven't played much before so it was a bit of a rude awakening."

Lewis Ludlam, Ellis Genge, Ollie Thorley and George Kruis have also been playing while on England duty, while chess is emerging as an increasingly popular pastime at Tuilagi's club Leicester, where May is also based.

Tuilagi rates his teammate but confirms his personal approach to chess is "pretty much the same" as his rugby. "If I'm playing white I'll attack. If you're in white you have the opportunity to attack first. When you attack you have to go all in. As soon as you let your foot off the gas you'll be losing."

Those who know Tuilagi best have long insisted he is a smarter rugby player than his physicality may suggest and, after battling back from assorted injuries, the midfielder is also a more mature figure than in his younger days. Brute force alone will not win Test matches and the 28-year-old is looking to out-think the Wales midfield on Saturday as well as flatten them.

That objective, he believes, has been aided by the return to fitness of Slade, whose excellent passing game and angles of running dovetail nicely with his more straightforward strengths. "He's an outstanding player," Tuilagi said. "If he's on the field I just give him the ball and try to follow him around. Run, kick, pass, offload - there's a lot of options."

It seems the admiration is mutual. "I think we work well together," Slade said. "We have different strengths and weaknesses and complement each other nicely."

"He's a massive bloke, so he gets us over the gainline really well and defensively, if you run into him, he will hit you bloody hard. When the defence is right in front of us, I just give it to him. When there is a bit more space hopefully he gives it to me."

Checkmate at Twickenham? England are hoping so.

Sport In brief

Cycling

New calendar could be 'massively destructive'

The British Cycling performance director, Stephen Park, has warned the UCI's radical track cycling calendar has the potential to be "massively destructive" if not introduced properly. On Sunday the world governing body confirmed details of the plans, under which the world championships will move from February to October, the World Cup will be replaced by a shorter Nations Cup during the summer and a made-for-TV Track League, developed with Eurosport, will be introduced in the winter.

It is understood the national federation has raised a number of concerns but received few answers from the UCI about the changes, which will take effect next year. "The overall principles are all fine," Park said, "but how they might do it could mean the whole thing is chaos and massively destructive to track cycling. The devil is in the detail." **PA Media**

Rugby league

Widdop's England omission baffles Price

The Warrington coach, Steve Price, has expressed his surprise over the omission of Gareth Widdop from Shaun Wane's first England squad. The 30-year-old has been virtually an ever-present in the England team since making his debut under Steve McNamara in 2010. But he is not on the list of 31 players chosen by Wane to attend a get-together at Old Trafford on 23 March as part of the preparations for the Ashes series later in the year. "I was very surprised," Price said. "I'm not sure what the coach is thinking there. It's a question you'd have to ask Shaun." **PA Media**

Motor racing

Mercedes in net-zero carbon pledge

Lewis Hamilton's Mercedes team have pledged to achieve a net-zero carbon footprint by the end of the year. F1's record-breaking constructor want to cut their carbon dioxide emissions from 20,000 tonnes in 2018 to 10,000 in 2022. **PA Media**

Chris Cook's tips

Catterick 2.20 Pepper Street 2.50 Django Django (nap) 3.20 Zoutoise 3.50 Las Tunas 4.20 Transpennine Star 4.50 Wishing And Hoping 5.25 Anythingforlove (nb)

Lingfield 2.30 Golden Times 3.00 Renardeau 3.30 Pitcher's Point 4.00 Al Daiha 4.30 Corvair 5.00 Percy's Prince

Kempton 5.15 Star Of Bengal 5.45 Songo 6.15 Be Fair 6.45 Cemhaan 7.15 Chares 7.45 Fujaira King 8.15 Griggy

Fontwell Abandoned (waterlogged)

'We are confident at this stage that Dan will make it'

Sam Warburton
Wales breakdown coach



◀ Northampton's Dan Biggar picked up his injury on Saturday at home against Saracens, who won by six points
DAVID ROGERS/GETTY

Ashton in 'disagreement'

Chris Ashton left Sale after "a disagreement on how we want to play the game", the club's director of rugby, Steve Diamond, said. Sale announced on Monday that Ashton (👤) was departing with immediate effect with mutual agreement regarding the termination of the 32-year-old wing's contract. "There is no situation," Diamond said yesterday. "Just a disagreement on how we want to play the game. He wants to do it one way, I want to do it another and that's it, so end of story." Asked how it would affect the team, Diamond said: "It won't, I don't think. We've got Marland Yarde, Byron McGuigan, Denny Solomona, Arron Reed, Tom Roebuck ... plenty of players. We've got a squad good enough to cope." **PA Media**



Sport

Football SheBelieves Cup

▼ Dawn Scott (left) puts young England goalkeeper Hannah Hampton through a workout
LYNNE CAMERON FOR THE FA/SHUTTERSTOCK



Scott returns to England with a mission to make Lionesses the world's best

Revered sports scientist was part of USA World Cup-winning squad but is now helping plot their downfall

Suzanne Wrack



The three-times World Cup-winning centre-back Christie Pearce Rampone described Dawn Scott as “the secret to everything” and the Ballon d’Or winner Megan Rapinoe, asked how she felt about losing USA’s high-performance coach to England, shed tears.

For those who have worked with Scott, she is simply the best. Now, after nine years in the States, the South Shields-born sports scientist is working for the Lionesses, aiming to unseat her former team from the top of the game. Scott won two World Cups and an Olympic gold medal with USA but switched sides at the end of last year and faces her former employers in her first game with England in the SheBelieves Cup tomorrow.

The match has come too soon for the England players to have fully benefited from having Scott on

board and being in the other dugout at the Exploria Stadium in Orlando will test her emotions. “It will feel weird,” Scott says, sitting on a sofa in St George’s Park, ginger tea in hand. “It was my life. I built some very close professional relationships with players. When Lindsey Horan came back from PSG, we took her to LA for two or three days to do some testing and we literally chaperoned her round with me saying: ‘Have you had tea? Are you going to bed?’ She now calls me mum,” she says with a smile.

It was Scott’s passion for the science of her players that made her so coveted by Phil Neville and the Football Association. That they were able to prise her from the world champions was down to a “combination of things”, according to Scott. “After a major tournament [the 2019 World Cup] you take stock. There was a change in coach over there, they were doing a bit of a search and throughout the process I was told a new coach might have their own staff. Round about the same time the FA were in touch.”

Family was another key piece of the puzzle. “My dad passed away in 2012 and you don’t realise it but when you’re away for 10 years you miss out on family events and supporting your family. My

mum used to come out four or five times a year [but] she had a knee replacement last January so her mobility is worse.” At the moment, Scott is living with her mum in the north-east and driving to the FA’s base in Burton upon Trent.

Then there was the matter of unfinished business. Scott previously spent nine years as the head of sports science for the England women’s team. “Take Jill Scott and Steph Houghton, for example,” she says. “I was around when they were coming into the England squad and the other piece for me is to be a part of their journey again.”

Thinking she would be a physics teacher, Scott studied the subject in Nottingham but university football dominated and she took a year out, getting a job as a data scientist before transferring to study accountancy, and play football, at Sheffield Hallam. In the end she found her fit: sports science at Manchester Met. A string of jobs in the field followed and in 2001 they led to a role with Hope Powell’s England team.

“Back in the day at the FA we used to have a regional strength and conditioning programme,” Scott says. “In four of the regions the best place for players to go for strength and conditioning was the local prisons because they had the best

equipment. So there was a group up in the north-east: Jill, Steph, Demi Stokes, Jordan Nobbs and, a little bit later, Lucy Bronze, Carly Telford, and they would go into the prison twice a week and lift. The trainer would meet them at the reception and lead them through the prison. Jill being Jill, full of energy, nothing malicious, would mess around so she actually got banned from going for a while.”

Things were not too dissimilar when she left to join USA in 2011 but what followed was a decade of innovation at the top level. One well-publicised area was the use of the FitrWoman period tracker app to monitor players’ menstrual cycles. “For me there’s not enough evidence right now to be able to prescribe training on the back of menstrual cycles,” Scott says cautiously. “There also isn’t enough evidence, or enough injuries, to fully relate and link injuries specifically to menstrual cycle; that’s my personal opinion. Yes, we did menstrual cycle education and support in the lead-up to the World Cup with the US team. For me the first step is the education and awareness.

“I’m a big fan of education. If you’re going to ask a player to do something, do they understand the mechanism and the why? We travelled to the nine US pro teams and delivered an education session

I’m a fan of looking at every single facet of a player’s performance’

The fixtures

Tomorrow	Spain v Japan (9.15pm)
	USA v England (Fri 12am)
Sunday	Japan v England (6.15pm)
	USA v Spain (9pm)
11 March	England v Spain (9pm)
	USA v Japan (12am Thu)

and then with the US team we had them fill in a long survey to identify any symptoms they may be feeling or any impact they felt it had on their performance and then we addressed the symptoms. Imagine you’ve got a player saying they’re sore, they’re not sleeping, they’re not recovering? Obviously that’s going to impact a player’s performance whether it’s menstrual cycle-related or not. So we started addressing those things, through focusing on the recovery.”

Scott helped build a winning machine and is increasingly aware that, like the players, she is powerful role model. A female scientist at the top of her trade, Scott has taken part in the CBS television series Mission Unstoppable which aims to close the gender gap in Stem (science, technology, engineering and maths) disciplines. “I think we’ve almost got a duty to be visible,” she says. “I guess there were no role models out there for me.”

For the 11.7 million BBC viewers of England’s semi-final defeat by USA in last summer’s World Cup the superiority of the Americans was clear. “I’m a fan of looking at every single facet of a player’s performance,” Scott says. “Whether that’s recovery, nutrition, hydration; the stuff on the field is one or two or three hours of the day. The FA has a project called ‘The other 22 hours’. For me you could be the best trainer on the field but if you don’t then look after yourself as much as you excel on the field then you’re not starting the next session as recovered as you could be.

“We talk about being 24/7 athletes and that’s what you have to be. When you finish training what are you putting into your body? Hydration, nutrition, what’s your recovery? Are you delaying it? Are you on your feet all day on your day off? Or are you resting and recovering your body for the next session? What are you doing from a mental perspective?”

“I feel like a lot of the time we focus on the physical recovery and preparation but there’s the mental side. Do we rest our brains? Do we rest our mind? How do we recover the brain and mind? Sleep is the freest form of recovery and how many of them or us have effective and good sleep at different kick-off times? On different days of the week?”

It is that attention to detail that saw such an emotional outpouring from members of the USA team and fans on the announcement of Scott’s departure. “I think sometimes we get caught up with numbers and data and we lose track of the player,” Scott says. “First and foremost we have to always remember the player is a person. I think the person, the player, has to be central to everything.”

Sport
Football

Ceferin tells football 'to avoid 'dark scenarios' over virus

Paul MacInnes
Amsterdam

Aleksander Ceferin has warned against fixating on “dark scenarios” over the spread of coronavirus even as it was revealed that the Scotland manager, Steve Clarke, would not be attending yesterday’s Uefa Nations League draw because of fears over the disease. Although sporting events around

the world have been postponed or cancelled owing to the virus, Uefa continues to insist its competitions – including the European Championship, which is due to begin in 101 days – are to continue as planned. Speaking at Uefa’s annual congress the organisation’s president called on football to be “optimistic” in an assertive address on Uefa’s future, interpreted by many as a swipe at Fifa and its president, Gianni Infantino. “We are dealing with it and we are confident we can deal with it,” Ceferin said when asked about the virus. “You don’t know how many big concerns we have: we have security concerns, political instability and one is also the virus. Let’s try to be optimistic, not think about dark scenarios – there’s time for that later.” Uefa’s plans for Euro 2020 and fixtures in the Champions League and Europa League remain unchanged, but its general secretary Theodore Theodoridis, said a consultation group had been formed with European leagues. “We are addressing the



▲ Aleksander Ceferin is confident Uefa can deal with epidemic

situation, maintaining contact with the World Health Organization and different governments,” he said. “We have to deal with it case by case. We do not want to overreact.” The Scottish Football Association confirmed Clarke would not attend the draw. “On the back of the first response meeting, it was determined by the group that the national coach attending was an unnecessary risk,” a spokesperson said. Ceferin’s annual address to Uefa members contained a bullish assessment of the organisation’s strengths as it continues its struggle for control

over football with the world governing body, Fifa. Ceferin admitted Uefa must do more to combat racism but went on to describe football as a “social movement” before saying Uefa must put “purpose before power” and use its rapidly growing revenues to better the game across Europe. The remarks were interpreted as a response to Infantino’s suggestion that Fifa’s Club World Cup tournament, seen by Uefa as a possible rival to the Champions League, was designed with the purpose of helping less prosperous football nations. In addressing racism, Ceferin said: “Many of us have been sickened by what we have witnessed in a number of European stadiums this season. The problem is not on the pitch, where diversity is greater than in any other sport and probably any other part of society. The problem is in our societies. And this has to stop. “We must begin by applying the rules we already have. That would be a good starting point. That means applying the three-step procedure. We must

Valencia ruling

The second leg of Valencia’s Champions League tie against Atalanta next week will be played behind closed doors because of coronavirus concerns. Spain’s health minister, Salvador Illa, recommended that sporting events in the country with a high expected attendance from zones designated as high-risk should be held behind closed doors. That includes the return leg in Valencia and the Europa League match between Getafe and Internazionale on 19 March. **Guardian sport**

not be afraid to do so. Everywhere. No exceptions. But ... we need to do more. More and perhaps differently, so we can be proud of ourselves.” In a reference to an expanded Club World Cup, Ceferin said: “The football pyramid is delicate and must not be knocked off balance.”

Kane and Rashford give Southgate hope for Euro 2020

Injured strikers on track to be fit while door is open for City midfielder Foden

Paul MacInnes
Amsterdam

Gareth Southgate is optimistic about the possibility of Harry Kane and Marcus Rashford being fit for Euro 2020 and has left the door open for Phil Foden as he anticipated another competitive year of international football. Southgate was in Amsterdam for the Nations League draw, the Uefa competition that gives England the chance to lay the ghosts of 2016 after they were drawn against Iceland, as well as Denmark and Belgium, in group A2. Whatever the moderate advantages of the new tournament it is not the main event this year and Southgate is already thinking about the summer. England kick off their Euro 2020 campaign at Wembley on 14 June against Croatia but much can change between now and then as he is well aware. Southgate is without his two first-choice strikers but he talked posi-

tively about the recovery being made by Kane and Rashford, two players who would be definite starters in his team were they to make it. “We’ve had really good updates right the way through and Harry and Marcus are exactly where we were expecting them to be,” Southgate said. “Both players will give themselves the best possible chance of being available, that’s their mentality and that’s their dedication to their sport. “That’s the only bit we can guarantee, what we can’t guarantee is how that rehab will develop as it’s stepped up and as it becomes more intense. But they are both on track from the information we were given at the very start.” This is an uncertain time for Southgate and there is much he cannot guarantee. One is the effect the coronavirus; most immediately, England’s friendly with Italy. “The reality is that we don’t know,” he said. “It is an ever-changing picture for everybody, in every walk of life, so we are updated all the time by government but of course none of us know what the next few weeks will hold.” Other unknowns for Southgate are on the pitch, such as the risk of more injury or players going out of form. Jordan Pickford is one who falls into the latter category, with his mistake against Manchester United’s Bruno Fernandes on Sunday putting the Everton goalkeeper in the spotlight. He has been consistent for England and Southgate stood behind his player. “His performances for us throughout have been outstanding,” the manager said. “I think he has been a key part of some big results we have had. I think that is clear to everybody but in goal, if you are the England goalkeeper, you are under the spotlight. I am expect-



ing him to bounce back. The weekend goal is one he would want to do better with but then he had some outstanding saves at the end of the game. That is the life of a goalkeeper.” One final thing Southgate has no real control over is the number of players from whom he can choose. He believes he has 70 eligible players in the Premier League, meaning each ought to be under his consideration for selection. Some are more demanding of his attention than others, one being Foden after his performance for Manchester City in the Carabao Cup final. “The door’s open for everybody,” Southgate said. “We’ve got 70 English

players in the league and when they’re of the quality of a player like Phil then of course the door’s open.” In the Nations League, the other home nations were all in League B and avoided one another in the draw, though Wales will face the Republic of Ireland in group B4 alongside Bulgaria and Finland. Scotland will play Israel, their European Championship play-off opponents, as well as Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Northern Ireland will face Norway, Austria and Romania.

Football In brief

Everton

Ancelotti wants staff to improve English

Carlo Ancelotti has ordered Everton’s backroom team to improve their English as they adapt to life in the Premier League. The Italian brought six of his trusted staff to Goodison Park when succeeding Marco Silva as manager in December, including his son, Davide, as assistant manager, and his son-in-law, Mino Fulco, as the head of performance. Ancelotti’s long-serving fitness coach, Francesco Mauri, and analyst, Simeone Montanaro, are also part of his support team alongside Duncan Ferguson and the goalkeeping coach, Alan Kelly. **Andy Hunter**

Birmingham City Women

Tejedor leaves with club second bottom of WSL

Marta Tejedor has left Birmingham by mutual consent, with the club second from bottom in the Women’s Super League. The 51-year-old former Chile and Peru women’s national team manager had been in the role since January 2019. The first-team coach, Charlie Baxter, will take interim charge while the club search for Tejedor’s successor. **Guardian Sport**

Rangers

Gerrard ‘ready to go again’ at Ibrox

Steven Gerrard insists he is “all in” at Rangers as he moved to quash speculation about his future after the defeat by Hearts in the Scottish Cup. “I have done a real lot of thinking to myself and shared those thoughts with people around me and I am ready to go again,” the manager said. **PA Media**

The draw in full

- A1 Netherlands, Italy, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Poland
- A2 England, Belgium, Denmark, Iceland
- A3 Portugal, France, Sweden, Croatia
- A4 Switzerland, Spain, Ukraine, Germany
- B1 Austria, Norway, Northern Ireland, Romania
- B2 Czech Republic, Scotland, Slovakia, Israel
- B3 Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Hungary
- B4 Wales, Finland, Republic of Ireland, Bulgaria
- C1 Montenegro, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Azerbaijan
- C2 Georgia, North Macedonia, Estonia, Armenia
- C3 Greece, Kosovo, Slovenia, Moldova
- C4 Albania, Belarus, Lithuania, Kazakhstan
- D1 Faroe Islands, Latvia, Andorra, Malta
- D2 Gibraltar, Liechtenstein, San Marino

Sport Football

▼ Garry Monk concedes he is under pressure after one league win in nine games
DANNY LAWSON/PA



City's cup visit gives Monk respite from Wednesday crisis

Downward spiral and fractured relationships leave manager in 'most difficult moment' of his career

Louise Taylor

Garry Monk believes one of the best things his parents did for him was to ensure he developed a thick skin. A tough carapace acquired during a youth in which he juggled schoolwork with helping out in his father's industrial cleaning business and learned the benefits of greeting adversity by "pulling yourself together" is proving extremely useful at Sheffield Wednesday.

It is not so long ago that Monk was being tipped as a potential England manager during a honeymoon stint in charge of Swansea but as he prepares for tonight's FA Cup fifth-round tie with Manchester

City at Hillsborough he is clinging on to his job. Management has always been a game of snakes and ladders but, as Pep Guardiola heads to the Steel City, Monk could do without certainty being quite such a stranger.

"It's probably the most difficult moment in my career," he says after a run of one win in nine Championship games. "I'm trying to help the players and I know the work I do works. But results haven't been good enough."

This downward spiral has not only led to Wednesday sliding out of the promotion race and falling to 12th place but seen speculation about his future intensify following Saturday's 3-1 home defeat by Derby. It seems he will remain at least until the end of the season but the situation looks fragile and some key relationships appear fractured.

"It feels like the work we're doing isn't being rewarded," says a 40-year-old whose horizon was already clouded by the threat of Wednesday being deducted points

after alleged breaches of the Football League's profit and sustainability rules. "It's bitterly frustrating but the responsibility for results is all mine."

At least City's visit represents a different sort of pressure. "There are very few chinks in Manchester City's armour and we won't be afforded chances to make mistakes but we have to believe we can win," Monk says. "It's a challenge, a unique opportunity against some of the best in the world. I'm sure the players will rise to the occasion. We musn't fear it."

"We're not expected to beat City but it's definitely not a free hit. If we can do ourselves justice it can maybe provide us with a lift for the rest of the season."

Monk's still fairly fledgling managerial career has seen him sacked by Swansea and walk out on Leeds before being fired by Middlesbrough only to meet the same fate at Birmingham. At St

'It's a challenge, a unique opportunity against some of the best in the world'

Andrew's he grappled with a nine-point deduction for breaches of EFL financial rules that were nothing to do with him.

Dejphon Chansiri, the Wednesday owner, could do without the team sitting 10 points clear of third-bottom Middlesbrough in a season where the EFL has the power to strip his suddenly relegation-threatened club of up to 21 points if they are found guilty of misconduct. Wednesday have said they will "vigorously defend" their position.

That prospect has amplified scrutiny surrounding Monk's controversial decision to exile two influential players - the midfielder Sam Hutchinson and the goalkeeper Keiren Westwood - from first-team training. The reasoning remains unspecified but the pair are powerful, sometimes challenging, dressing-room voices and Hutchinson's on-pitch leadership has arguably been missed.

Perhaps significantly, the pair experienced similar stints in the club's deep freeze under a former Wednesday manager, Jos Luhukay, before Steve Bruce's installation cemented their returns to the fold.

Although Westwood denies a rift with his latest manager - "it's nothing personal," he maintains - Monk has never been afraid to fall out with players or colleagues; Bruce's successor is, for instance, no longer on speaking terms with his former Swansea and Birmingham assistant Pep Clotet.

This persona does not perturb Wednesday's 32-year-old striker Steven Fletcher, who sounds convincing enough when he praises Monk's methods and mastery of "little details", but there is a fine line between strong management and self-destruction, the courage to stand alone and the need to sometimes compromise.

Yet there is also a powerful case for a radical reform of a Wednesday squad Bruce was keen to remodel before his move to Newcastle last summer.

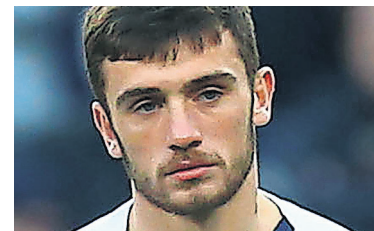
Monk says it is "not the time" to discuss "the bigger picture" as he resolutely straight-bats reporters' questions. "I need to focus on winning matches but, for me, the bigger the challenge the better. That's the mentality I've been given."

thought I needed freshness - not just legs and mentally but the desire. I need them [those who had not featured] angry and wanting to show me they should have played against Madrid."

City are at Sheffield Wednesday tonight in the FA Cup and Guardiola has no doubt his players will be motivated.

"I learned in the big clubs I was at before about their history that when they win a trophy they go and take a shower and are thinking in that moment about the next one."

The cup tie will be too soon for Sané. "He is not ready," Guardiola said. Claudio Bravo will again start after playing in the League Cup final. The goalkeeper is out of contract in the summer and no decision has been made over an extension



▲ Tottenham supporters want José Mourinho to play Troy Parrott more

Mourinho tells Parrott to 'stop thinking you are too good'

David Hytner

José Mourinho has told Troy Parrott to stop thinking he is "too good" to play for Tottenham's Under-23s. The manager said he experienced a similar problem with Scott McTominay at Manchester United before he had words with the midfielder and has urged Parrott to show the right attitude to establish himself at Spurs.

Mourinho has been under pressure from supporters to use Parrott, who is the only fit striker in his squad, albeit one who has just turned 18 and has played for a total of 72 minutes. The manager joked that some of the fans who clamour for Parrott have never seen him play and do not even know whether he has blond or dark hair.

Parrott will be on the bench for the FA Cup fifth-round home tie against Norwich tonight but the discussion around the Republic of Ireland forward concerned the need for him "to have his feet on the ground".

Mourinho talked about McTominay, whom he brought through at United. He said the player struggled initially to behave properly when he had to return to the youth teams, having tasted life in the senior squad, and his career took off only when he was reminded of a few home truths.

Mourinho sees the parallels with Parrott, who has trained all season with the first team but has appeared in seven under-age matches, scoring 11 goals. He played the first 45 minutes of the under-23 win against Wolves on Monday, scoring once.

"I was so happy with the way he performed and I'm not speaking about his goal. I told him before the game: 'Every time you play with the kids of your age, you have to show your colleagues why you are the privileged one.' Because it was something he was not doing. Every time he was playing with the kids, he was playing with the mentality of, 'I shouldn't be here' or, 'I am too good to be here.'"

"I had exactly the same words with Scott McTominay. He was not loved in his age group because he was not there with the right frame of mind. The moment we started changing that lots of things started changing for him."

"Troy cannot go there [the under-age teams] with discontent. It is a process. But this is a world where lots of people don't even know if Troy has long hair or short hair, or is blond or is dark. They don't even know that and they speak about Troy, Troy, Troy."

Foden 'will get what he deserves' after starring role

Jamie Jackson

Pep Guardiola believes Phil Foden will "get what he deserves" after his outstanding performance in Manchester City's Carabao Cup final triumph.

Foden took advantage of a surprise start in the 2-1 win against Aston Villa

at Wembley to show he has the potential to replace David Silva, who leaves in the summer. Sunday's final was the 19-year-old's 10th start of the season.

"I want the best [for him]," the City manager said. "He will get what he deserves. I am delighted with his performance and his behaviour in good and bad moments. He just has to think work and work and it always pays off."

Guardiola was not concerned that Foden's inclusion might have been a gamble because of limited action. "I have played a final with Phil because I see him every day. Every time we let him play, always he plays good, at a high level."

"Last season he played when we played Tottenham [in April, scoring the winner] in the Premier League after being knocked out of the Champions

League by them. People said in pre-season when Leroy Sané got injured that we may have to go the transfer market and I said: 'No, because Phil can play in the middle or wide.'"

Guardiola was pressed why Foden was used in the final and not the Champions League victory at Real Madrid in the previous game. "I



▲ Phil Foden was the man of the match in the Carabao Cup final

Sport
Football Emirates FA Cup fifth round

Almirón double sends Newcastle marching on

West Brom	2
Phillips 74, Zohore 90	
Newcastle	3
Almirón 32 45, Lazaro 47	
Paul Wilson	
The Hawthorns	

Newcastle are on their way to Wembley as far as their admirable away support is concerned. A double strike from the normally innocuous Almiron helped put them into the last eight, just a game away from a trip to London, and though there are still some big teams left the near 50% of respondees who told a Newcastle Chronicle survey they wouldn't mind being relegated if they could go down as FA Cup winners are one step nearer to their wish.

It might not come to that, of course, Newcastle could enjoy a Cup run and stay up, especially if they can keep up this new-found facility for scoring goals. Certainly the United following have not enjoyed themselves as loudly or as long all season, though they cannot expect to play West Bromwich every week. The unexpected defeat by Wigan in the last match seemed to have knocked the confidence of the Championship leaders, whose team selection left no one in doubt that promotion is their overriding priority.

The game was lively from the off. Newcastle had a chance to take the lead in under three minutes when Gareth Barry was caught in possession just outside his own area, but though Nabil Bentaleb squared to the better placed Miguel Almirón the Paraguayan's first touch let him down when he would have been clear on goal. Not to be out-done West Bromwich came straight down the field and almost scored at the other end, Kyle Edwards putting a lot of power into his shot from the edge of the area yet finding goalkeeper Karl Darlow's reactions equal to it.

Newcastle were doing most of the attacking by the mid-point of the first half, as befits a side that had only made a conservative six changes from their last league game. Slaven Bilic's response to losing at home to Wigan at the weekend was to replace nine of his players, which made you wonder

whether either side really wanted to reach the last eight. Joelinton made a good chance for himself by eluding Dara O'Shea's attentions near the corner flag and cutting inside Kyle Bartley to make room for a shot, only to find Jonathan Bond alert to the danger and in position to save at the foot of a post. Newcastle had gone four games without a goal and really needed something to show for their first-half superiority, because the long wait seemed to be affecting their composure in the final third. When a corner dropped invitingly to Sean Longstaff on the edge of the area he had time to line up a shot properly but in his haste he hit the ball early and wide.

When Allan Saint-Maximin hit the post with a dipping drive from 30 yards it began to appear Newcastle's luck might be out, but the same player managed to change that impression just past the half hour with a telling midfield break and a neat ball behind the West Brom central defenders for Almirón to run onto. This time he was clear on goal and this time Almirón made no mistake, calmly waiting for Bond to commit himself before slipping the ball past him. The 5,000 travelling fans at the opposite end reacted to the first Toon goal in over six hours with wild celebrations and a few premature mentions of Wembley, which is fair enough considering they had not seen their side reach the fifth round for 14 years, let alone take a lead.



▲ Miguel Almirón turns to score his second goal against West Brom
SERENA TAYLOR/NEWCASTLE VIA GETTY IMAGES

Right on the stroke of the interval that lead was doubled, with the not especially prolific Almirón striking again to record his first Newcastle brace. When Joelinton received the ball following a Valentino Lazaro run down the right he was facing away from goal, and his improvised back-heel towards the penalty spot looked hopeful, yet Almirón not only reached it at a stretch he managed to find the top corner in the act of sliding to the floor.

West Brom were probably not going to come back from Newcastle going two up, but just to make sure the visitors scored a third goal just minutes into the second half. Almiron and Saint-Maximin combined once again, and though the latter put his cross too close to the goalkeeper all Bond could manage was to push the ball into the oncoming Lazaro, who bundled it over the line. VAR might have checked for handball, but in its absence the goal stood with few complaints. Filip Krovinovic and Edwards went close for the home side before Matty Phillips pulled a goal back with 15 minutes remaining, and though Newcastle found those minutes more tense than they ought to have been, culminating in Kenneth Zohore stabbing home with only seconds of stoppage time to go, the result was never in serious doubt.

West Brom	Newcastle
4-3-3	4-5-1
Bond; Furlong, O'Shea, Bartley, Gibbs; Brunt (Tulloch 86), Barry (Krovinovic 57), Harper; Phillips, Austin (Peltier 67), Edwards	Darlow; Manquillo, Lascelles, Schär, Rose; Bentaleb, S Longstaff, Lazaro (Lejeune 90), Almirón (Shelvey 71), Saint-Maximin (Gayle 80); Joelinton
Subs not used	Subs not used
Al-Habshi, Zohore, Townsend, Fitzwater	Elliot, Ritchie, Yedlin, M Longstaff
Referee A Taylor	

Puscas's penalty has Blades working overtime

Reading	1
Puscas 43pen	
Sheffield United	1
McGoldrick 2	
(score at 90min)	
Nick Ames	
Madejski Stadium	

Reading bounced back from conceding after little over a minute to take Sheffield United to extra time and significantly improve the prospects of a second-tier presence in the quarter-finals. The visitors took early control when David McGoldrick broke a 22-game drought but a penalty two minutes before half-time from George Puscas, which looked debatable and enraged Chris Wilder, earned parity that was ultimately a fair reflection.

Mark Bowen had called this his team's biggest game of the season and, while a patchy turnout did not suggest their supporters agreed, he had a point. Reading have scant chance of leaving the Championship via any route so there was little excuse not to go at full tilt and he obliged with an unchanged side.

Their expectations were compromised within 85 seconds. McGoldrick's goal was textbook: a well-timed leap and downwards header after Ben Osborn was offered an inordinate amount of space to cross from the left. But such simplicity belied its significance: it was the forward's first goal of a season in which he has, perversely, been among United's best players.

McGoldrick deserved that for his body of work but the Reading top scorer, Yakou Méité, can also show off an impressive back catalogue. Only a flying save from Dean Henderson prevented him augmenting it with a vicious shot from 20 yards after a sweeping move.

If John Egan's near-post header had hit the target or a McGoldrick's drive



George Puscas scored Reading's equaliser just before half-time

had not been beaten away by Rafael Cabral, the tie might have been over by half-time. Reading's equaliser came from nowhere, George Baldock adjudged by Kevin Friend to have barged Andy Rinomhota. It looked soft, although the position seemed harmless enough for Baldock to box cleverer. Up stepped Puscas to give proceedings some much needed life.

The gift did wonders for Reading's confidence, even if the sense persisted that United had another gear or two. Michael Olise, the 18-year-old winger, blazed over and then their right-back, Andy Yiadom, brought the house down with a smartly-executed turn out of a tight spot deep in his own half.

Puscas was optimistic when pleading for another spot kick after throwing himself towards an Olise cross. The Blades' defence let him know what they thought but they had plenty else to ponder. Méité, a constant threat running in from the right, was soon within inches of latching on to a floated pass from John Swift. McGoldrick headed over at the other end but, as the clock ticked down, the risk grew that Wilder's side would pay for failing to build on their explosive start.

Kieron Freeman shot from range, as he can to such fine effect, but Cabral made another solid stop. Wilder introduced Ollie McBurnie and Billy Sharp for the latter stages and, belatedly, the Premier League side appeared to acknowledge there was a match to be won. They would have to do it in an added half-hour, though, after making little of their late pressure.

Reading	Sheffield United
4-1-4-1	3-1-4-2
Rafael; Yiadom, Miazga, Morrison, Obita; Swift; Méité, Rinomhota; Ejaria, Olise; Puscas	Henderson; Basham, Egan, O'Connell; Berge; G Baldock, Lundstram, Freeman, Osborn; McGoldrick (Sharp 79), Mousset (McBurnie 61)
Subs not used	Subs not used
Walker, Moore, S Baldock, McCleary, Blackett, Masika, Gomes	Verrips, Jagielka, Robinson, Retsos, Zivkovic
Referee Kevin Friend	

Results

Football

EMIRATES FA CUP FIFTH ROUND

Chelsea	(1) 2	Liverpool	(0) 0
William 13			
Barkley 64		40,103	

Reading	(1) 1	Sheffield United	(1) 1
Puscas 43pen		McGoldrick 2	
(score at 90min)			

West Brom	(0) 2	Newcastle	(2) 3
Phillips 74		Almirón 33 45	
Zohore 90		Lazaro 47	

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

Top six	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Coventry	33	17	13	3	47	30	+17	64
Rotherham	34	18	8	8	60	35	+25	62
Portsmouth	33	17	8	8	51	32	+19	59
Wycombe	34	17	8	9	45	40	+5	59
Sunderland	34	16	10	8	46	28	+18	58
Fleetwood	33	16	10	7	49	36	+13	58

Ipswich	(0)	0	Fleetwood	(1)	1
15,678			Evans 40		
SKY BET LEAGUE TWO					
Top 10	P	W	D	L	F A GD Pts
Swindon	35	21	6	8	62 37 +25 69
Crewe	36	19	9	8	64 42 +22 66
Plymouth	36	19	8	9	58 39 +19 65
Exeter	36	18	11	7	52 40 +12 65
Cheltenham	35	17	12	6	52 27 +25 63
Northampton	36	17	7	12	53 38 +15 58
Port Vale	36	14	14	8	50 44 +6 56
Colchester	36	14	13	9	49 37 +12 55
Bradford	36	14	12	10	44 38 +6 54
Salford City	36	12	11	13	47 46 +1 47
Exeter	(1)	1	Crewe	(0)	1
Parkes 32			Nottingham 61		
4,221					
Plymouth	(3)	3	Grimsby	(0)	0
Bakinson 22					
Hardie 30					
Jephcott 40			9,327		
Swindon	(1)	2	Scunthorpe	(0)	0
Doyle 41 77			7,583		
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE					
AFC Fylde 1 Notts County 2; Barnet 2 Boreham Wood 2;					
Chesterfield 3 Harrogate Town 4; Chorley 1 Eastleigh 2;					
Halifax 1 Sutton United 0; Solihull Moors 0 Hartlepool 1					

LADBROKES SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Celtic	28	25	1	2	82	17	+65	76
Rangers	27	20	4	3	63	18	+45	64
Motherwell	28	13	3	12	36	36	0	42
Aberdeen	28	11	8	9	35	33	+2	41
Livingston	28	10	8	10	39	36	+3	38
Hibernian	29	9	10	10	41	46	-5	37
Kilmarnock	28	9	5	14	29	38	-9	32
St Johnstone	27	7	11	9	27	46	-19	32
Ross County	28	7	8	13	28	55	-27	29
St Mirren	27	6	7	14	23	36	-13	25
Hearts	28	4	10	14	30	50	-20	22
Hamilton	28	4	9	15	28	50	-22	21
Hibernian	(0) 1	Hearts	(0) 3					
Hallberg 89	Clare 53pen, Bozanic 65 Washington 80							
LADBROKES SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP								
Ayr 0 Dundee United 0; Dundee 0 Alloa 0; Inverness CT 3								
Morton 2; Partick Thistle 0 Queen of the South 0								
LADBROKES SCOTTISH LEAGUE 1								
Clyde 2 Montrose 1; Dumbarton 2 Forfar 0; Raith 1 Falkirk 1								
LADBROKES SCOTTISH LEAGUE 2								
Cowdenbeath 2 Albion Rovers 1; Stirling 0 Stenhousemuir 0								
BUILDBASE FA TROPHY								
Fourth round: Concord Rangers 1 Royston Town 1								
(score at 90min)								

FA WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTHERN
Oxford United 2 MK Dons 1
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH
Brackley 0 Boston United 0; Leamington 0 King's Lynn 0;
York City 1 Hereford FC 4
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Billericay 0 Havant & Waterlooville 1
BETVICTOR PREMIER DIVISION
Banbury United 4 Needham Market 2; St Ives 1 Leiston 0
PREMIER DIVISION
Corinthian Casuals 2 East Thurrock 1; Enfield 1 Lewes 1;
Leatherhead 4 Potters Bar Town 0
BETVICTOR NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE
Ashton 1 Warrington Town 1; Gainsborough 4 Radcliffe 1;
Matlock 1 Morpeth 1; Whitby 1 Mickleover Sports 1
BETVICTOR SOUTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH
Beaconsfield 4 Tiverton 0
DANSKE BANK IRISH PREMIERSHIP
Coleraine 2 Glenavon 1; Crusaders 0 Cliftonville 0;
Dungannon Swifts 1 Ballymena 0
PORTUGUESE PRIMEIRA LIGA
Famalicao 3 Sporting 1
Cricknet
ICC WOMEN'S WORLD TWENTY20
Sydney Thailand 150-3 (Chantam 56) v Pakistan; No result.
Sydney West Indies v South Africa; No result.

SECOND MEN'S ONE DAY INTERNATIONAL
Sylhet Bangladesh 322-8 (T Iqbal 158). Zimbabwe 318-8
(S Raza 66). Bangladesh won by four runs.
MEN'S TOUR MATCH (day two of four)
Wollongong New South Wales XI 405-8 dec (Hackney 95).
England Lions 126-5 (Lawrence 52). Lions trail by 279 runs.
Tennis
WTA LYON OPEN (France)
First round: T Martinicova (Cz) bt A Bogdan (Rom) 6-3 6-4;
C Giorgi (It) bt V Lapko 6-3 6-4; JB Teichmann (Sui) bt
C Burel (Fr) 6-4 6-3; V Tomova (Bul) bt M Frech (Pol) 7-5
7-6 (5) 6-4; K Madenovic (Fr) bt C Paquet (Fr) 1-6 6-2
6-4; D Kasatkina (Rus) bt P Parmentier (Fr) 6-2 5-7 6-4.
Fixtures
Football (7.45pm unless stated)
Emirates FA Cup
Fifth round Leicester v Birmingham; Sheffield Wednesday
v Manchester City; Tottenham v Norwich
Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership
Kilmarnock v Aberdeen; Livingston v Celtic; Motherwell v
Ross County; Rangers v Hamilton; St Mirren v St Johnstone
Ladbrokes Scottish Championship
Arbroath v Dunfermline
Ladbrokes Scottish League 2
Brechin v Annan Athletic
Cricknet (1.30pm unless stated)
First T20 International
Pallekele Sri Lanka v West Indies
Second One-Day International
Bloemfontein South Africa v Australia (11am)

▼ Ross Barkley scores
Chelsea's second goal
against Liverpool
NEIL HALL/EPA

Adrián blunder helps Chelsea end Liverpool's treble dream

Chelsea 2

Willian 13, Barkley 64

Liverpool 0

Possession



Shots on target



Fouls



David Hytner

Stamford Bridge

If Chelsea needed this, then Ross Barkley certainly did. And the boyhood Evertonian could hardly have chosen better opponents to punish. The midfielder's Chelsea career since his move from Goodison Park

in January 2018 can be best described as stop-start.

Nobody doubts Barkley's ability when it is his day. It is just that those days have been too scarce. Everything came together for him here in a performance of touch and influence and the goal that he scored to smooth Chelsea's passage into the FA Cup quarter-finals was the defining moment.

Seizing upon a loose ball 10 yards inside his own half, he sprinted away from the Liverpool midfielder Fabinho and, when he reached the edge of the area, with Joe Gomez backing off, he unfurled a venomous drive that ripped past Adrián.

Chelsea's form has been poor since late November and they entered this tie having won only one of their previous six in the Premier League - and that is not to mention the Champions League hammering against Bayern Munich. This was better from them, a

keeping alive of their final realistic shot at silverware but, from a Liverpool point of view, it was another strangely off-colour performance to follow that in Saturday's shock 3-0 league defeat at Watford.

The pre-match talk had taken in the need to show a reaction to what had

happened against Watford. Instead they slipped to a third away defeat in a row - the first was not necessarily terminal, the 1-0 against Atletico Madrid in the Champions League - and it was an evening when they could get little going in the final third.

The tone was set when Adrián



◀ Adrián makes a hash of saving Willian's shot for Chelsea's opening goal

DANIEL LEAL-OLIVAS/
AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

allowed a Willian shot to slip through his fingers - a horrible mistake - and, although Kepa Arrizabalaga, who was restored by Frank Lampard to the Chelsea team, made fine saves, Liverpool lacked their usual fluency. Chelsea's margin of victory could and should have been greater.

Klopp made the point beforehand that he had never been in a situation like this because he had never previously experienced the end of a 44-game unbeaten league run.

There was an element of the unknown in psychological terms. At the same time, he did not want to make it "bigger" than it was. "We lost a football game at Watford," he said, simply.

This was the first time that Klopp had played in the FA Cup fifth round, his record in the competition having been decidedly patchy in his previous four attempts, and he went stronger than expected with his line-up. He prioritised experience over youth, although he did start the teenagers, Neco Williams and Curtis Jones, and there were a handful of his first-choice players.

Frank Lampard gave an opportunity to Billy Gilmour at the base of his midfield three and the 18-year-old was busily effective - in fact the BBC made him man of the match - but the stand-out piece of Chelsea team news was

the recall of Kepa Arrizabalaga after a six-game absence. Errors were the theme of a frenetic opening, with Chelsea making two, first through Kurt Zouma and then Antonio Rüdiger from which Liverpool almost got in.

On the second occasion, Arrizabalaga bailed out his team with a decent stop to keep out Sadio Mané. The visitors also flickered when Takumi Minamino released Mané only for him not to shoot when the opportunity was there.

The biggest slip, though, came at the other end and it was a grisly one from Adrián, who played in goal ahead of Allison. It followed a risky sequence of passes out from the back into the Chelsea press, with Joe Gomez playing Fabinho into trouble and the Liverpool midfielder losing the ball, although there still did not seem to be too much danger when Willian took aim from the edge of the area.

Seconds earlier, after a Pedro shot had deflected kindly, Willian put his laces through the ball and was denied by Adrián's strong hands. It was an eye-catching save. But this time, although the shot was straight at him, curling only slightly, Adrián lost his concentration and fumbled it into the net.

Pedro and César Azpilicueta had earlier had chances for Chelsea and, after Adrián's lapse, the spotlight picked out Arrizabalaga in the other goal. It has been a testing time for the Spaniard, with Euro 2020 three months away. How can he push his starting claims with his national team from the sidelines at Stamford Bridge?

Arrizabalaga needed a big performance and he stood tall before the interval. He made a triple save to deny Mané, Divock Origi and Jones, a celebration of bravery, positioning and reflexes, and there would be another to thwart Mané after a quicksilver burst from the forward.

The tempo was high and Chelsea suffered a casualty when Mateo Kovacic took a knock and went off on 42 minutes.

Perhaps his withdrawal was precautionary, with Jorginho banned for the next three matches and N'Golo Kanté injured. Kovacic did not appear to be in too much discomfort when he went off.

Lampard has had reason to bemoan his luck with injuries, with Andreas Christensen, Christian Pulisic, Callum Hudson-Odoi and Tammy Abraham also out, and the situation worsened when Willian was forced off early in the second half.

Chelsea pressed on and they thought they had the second when the substitute, Mason Mount, bent a free-kick that he had won himself over the wall only for it to catch the top of the crossbar.

Barkley brought the ruthlessness and Liverpool's pain would have been more acute had Pedro not shot weakly at Adrián when one-on-one after a mix-up between Williams and Gomez or if the goalkeeper had not tipped a shot from Olivier Giroud against the crossbar.

Analysis

Barney Ronay *Stamford Bridge*



Are we allowed to now call this a wobble? Klopp's men draw another blank to slip out of Cup

Enter: the wobble. How do you kill that which cannot be killed? How do you repel an advancing avalanche? The answer, English football seems to have concluded – belatedly, Napoli might say – is you close the full-backs down.

Win wide. Take the flanks. Hope they don't score first. Grit your teeth and stick to the plan. Here endeth the lessons of Watford.

Chelsea came to Stamford Bridge with something similar in mind. They packed the central midfield, hustled on the flanks, and took their chances in an open, slightly wild game. At the end of which the last two weeks of Liverpool's previously steamrolling season read like this: three defeats from four, three blanks in front of goal.

And now dumped out of the FA Cup by a Chelsea team led as the game wore on by a fine midfield display from Billy Gilmour, 18 years old and 5ft 5in tall, who glided about about the pitch like some wonderfully gifted Yugoslavian playmaker of the late 1980s, albeit in this case from Scotland via Cobham.

How much will this defeat hurt Liverpool? A bit for sure, not least with that sense of opponents finally locating some traction, of coming armed with a plan.

Jürgen Klopp did pick a more callow FA Cup team, with an armature of A-listers to carry it. Neco Williams started at full-back. Curtis Jones, a year older at 19, was handed the biggest night of his career to date.

Right-back was the key change, though, in a team that locates its attacking pulse on the flanks. It isn't hard to see who Williams has based his game on. The surge, the stroll. The ball pinged in with that vicious right-footed slice. Williams was even caught upfield early on, Trent-style, as Pedro skittered in behind, but closed down the space with a spurt of gas. If you do not see the thrillingly cavalier red-shirted right back you require, please ask because others are available

That early lofted pass to Chelsea's left-winger looked like a plan. Frank Lampard had packed his flanks with speed and hustle, albeit slightly venerable speed and hustle in Pedro and Willian, who between them helped make Chelsea's opening goal.

Williams played a pass inside from Adrian's roll-out. Chelsea pressed high and instantly, dislodging the ball, which ran to Willian. His shot was straight at Adrián, who showed all the quick-footed agility of a municipal wheelie bin, allowing it to hit him and bounce away into the



Kepa Arrizabalaga made a stunning triple save in the first half

corner. Adrián made exculpatory gestures, suggesting he had been unsighted. Stamford Bridge seemed unsympathetic.

In fairness Liverpool had endless chances to equalise. There was a triple block, and a double save from Kepa Arrizabalaga. Liverpool dominated the start of the second half in familiar fashion. But there was a lack of razor edge too. Sadio Mané has one goal away from Anfield since November. Divock Origi none this season, Minamino none to date. Decent chances were spurned.

It made for a fun, carefree Cup tie. There were more than a 100 misplaced passes in the first half

There was no sense of control here from Liverpool for long periods. Is this the way it's going to be from here?



Billy Gilmour impressed on a rare start in the Chelsea midfield

alone, along with 19 shots. The key stat, perhaps was Chelsea's 35 long passes, many in search of that tender point behind the advancing red lines.

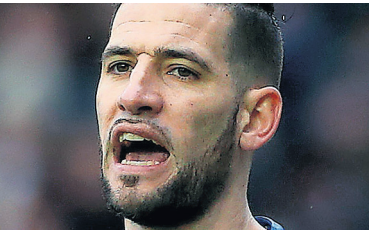
Liverpool don't need control to win a game. They can run harder than you, fight more furiously. But here there was no sense of control at all for long periods. Is this the way it's going to be from here? A steamrolling team cranking at the throttle, trying to jump-start itself through the endgame?

Certainly the sense of interruption remains, of rhythms still off after that half-baked mid-season break, a break where it always felt like the phone was still on, inbox still pinging, pulse never quite at rest.

Another key to Watford's success was preying on Liverpool's high defensive high line. No doubt the prospect of Olivier Giroud being cranked up like a petrol lawnmower, ears pinned back, goggles clamped, and ordered to chug in behind Virgil van Dijk will have shot a bolt of terror through the Liverpool dressing room before kick-off.

These days Giroud runs like a man remembering, vaguely, how to run. But he did his here, sticking to the space in between the wide players, wrestling gamely. He also helped to make the second goal, drawing Van Dijk upfield and allowing Chelsea to launch a full-length break. Ross Barkley ran on into space unchallenged then spanked the ball more or less straight through the unhappy Adrián.

Chelsea will take great heart from this victory. For Liverpool, there will be a wariness, a need for refinement and retrenchment. This team is too good not to adjust and find its own rhythms again. But for the nets of the league, and for Atlético Madrid too, due at Anfield in a week's time, the next few games have their own fascination; the sense, at last, of some space to work in.



Kiko Casilla was banned for eight games for using racist language

Leeds' Casilla was banned for using N-word, panel confirms

Louise Taylor

An independent Football Association regulatory commission suspended Kiko Casilla for eight games after being satisfied the Leeds goalkeeper called Charlton's loanee striker Jonathan Leko "a fucking nigger" during a game at the Valley in September last year.

Casilla maintains his innocence and has been supported by Leeds, who have questioned the FA's decision to decide the case on the balance of probabilities, but, in a 62-page document explaining the "written reasons" for its decision, the FA insists the required burden of proof was exceeded.

The FA had wanted to impose a 10-match ban on Casilla but the independent panel comprising Graeme McPherson QC, Marvin Robinson and Stuart Ripley decreed eight games would be a fairer sanction after reaching a unanimous decision that the Spaniard had racially abused Leko as he punched the ball clear following a corner.

Although they accepted the former Real Madrid goalkeeper has limited English they did not believe Casilla's assertion he had never heard of the word "nigger" before Leko, who was on loan from West Brom and had clashed with the goalkeeper in the lead-up to the corner, made his accusation.

While Leko's version of events was endorsed, convincingly in the panel's view, by Charlton's Macauley Bonne, another witness – Arsenal's former Leeds loanee Eddie Nketiah – recalled hearing the goalkeeper and striker exchange insults at the set piece but did not hear the particular word in question. "I just remember hearing swear words throughout the corner being taken," Nketiah said.

Last night Charlton condemned the abuse Leko and Bonne have been subjected to on social media. "The club is pleased there is finally a resolution," they said in a statement. "However the club is disappointed with the abuse on social media. Jonathan was a victim and the pair of them did not ask for this. The club is proud of them for standing up as football continues to fight racism."

The FA defended its use of the civil standard "balance of probabilities" as the burden of proof in these cases, rejecting the Leeds argument the criminal standard of "beyond reasonable doubt" would be more appropriate. "In reality we were satisfied to a degree well above the requisite standard," the FA said.

Chelsea 4-3-3 Arrizabalaga; Azpilicueta, Rüdiger, Zouma, Alonso; Barkley, Gilmour, Kovacic (Mount 42); Willian (Jorginho 51), Giroud (James 90), Pedro Subs not used Caballero, Batshuayi, Tomori, Anjorin	Liverpool 4-3-3 Adrián; Williams, Gomez, Van Dijk, Robertson; Lallana (Salah 80), Fabinho, Jones (Milner 70); Mané, Minamino, Origi (Firmino 70) Subs not used Loneragan, Oxlade- Chamberlain, Matip, Chirivella
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Referee Chris Kavanagh Attendance 40,103

Top of Toon
Almirón fires
Newcastle past
West Brom and
into last eight



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Your move ...
Tuilagi revelling
in new role
as England's
chessmaster



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The Guardian
Wednesday 4 March 2020



Sport

England prop Vunipola in self-isolation over growing virus fears

Robert Kitson



▲ Mako Vunipola travelled through Hong Kong and has been told to self-isolate

Mako Vunipola has been ruled out of England's Six Nations match against Wales on Saturday amid growing concerns over the global spread of coronavirus. The Saracens prop had been expected to train with the squad in Bagshot but is self-isolating at home on the advice of team doctors.

Vunipola has been in Tonga for family reasons and flew back to England at the weekend via Hong Kong. England say he is showing no symptoms but stood him down from the squad. A spokesperson said: "Mako Vunipola is not in the camp on medical grounds. He is not sick but it is a precaution."

The 29-year-old is also set to miss England's final Six Nations game against Italy on 14 March, with medics recommending anyone who could be infected self-isolate for 14 days. To date there have been around 100 reported cases of Covid-19 in Hong Kong.

It remains to be seen whether England's visit to Rome will go ahead, given Italy is the European country worst affected by the virus. The France sports minister, Roxana Maracineanu, has also raised the possibility of a travel ban for 10,000 French fans wishing to attend the Scotland v France game in Edinburgh on Sunday with 191 cases of coronavirus now reported in France.

"There is uncertainty about the movement of the 10,000 French supporters who bought tickets, we don't know if they will be able to get there," Maracineanu said. "We can now be considered as a hotbed of the virus."

England have included Anthony Watson and Mark Wilson in a 27-man squad to face Wales at Twickenham. Neither player has featured in the championship this season because of injury.

Vunipola's absence means Joe Marler and Ellis Genge will again share the loosehead prop duties but there is no room for the Exeter scrum-half Jack Maunder, who was called up to the squad for training this week, or his clubmates Harry Williams and Ollie Devoto.

The Bath hooker Tom Dunn, the Gloucester wing Ollie Thorley and the Wasps fly-half Jacob Umaga have also been omitted.



Match report
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**Olympics
'full steam'**
Bach plays
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**Uefa: be
optimistic**
President
Ceferin says:
avoid 'dark
scenarios'
Page 47 →



Chelsea



Liverpool

2

Willian 13,
Barkley 64

0

Bolt from the blue

Barkley's wonder goal sends
Liverpool spinning as Chelsea
inflict shock defeat in FA Cup

DARREN WALSH/CHelsea FC VIA GETTY IMAGES



Special branches

The trees
that changed
our lives



The
Guardian

Wednesday 04/03/20

Life

& Arts

Barking!
Arwa Mahdawi
on why she wants
to clone her dog
page 3



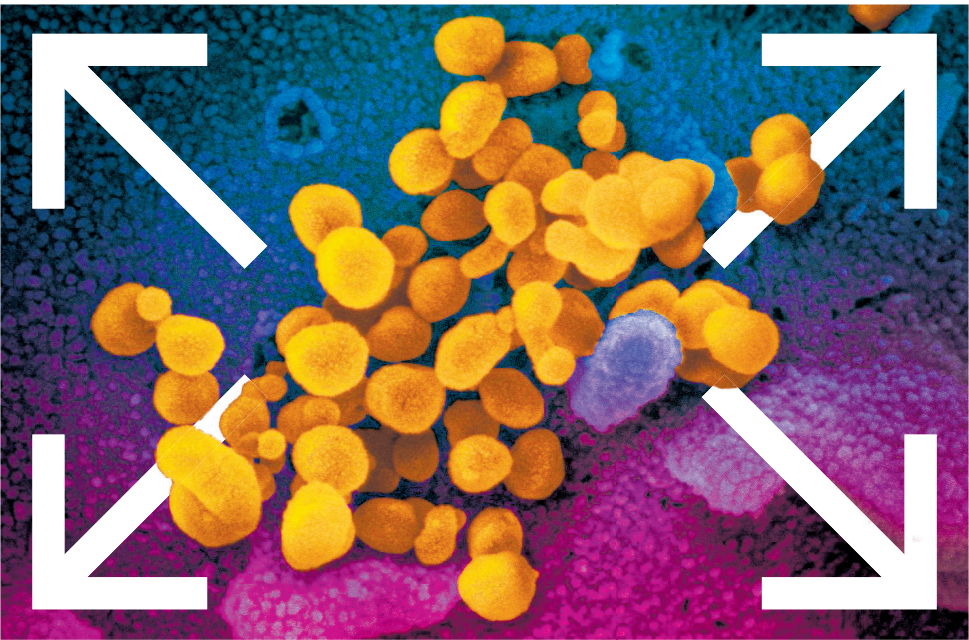
Fjord focus
Ten brilliant
years of
Nordic noir
page 10



Nº 4,110

Dan Price

Age: 35.
Appearance: Literally like Jesus.
Religious nut, is he? No. Dan Price is the co-founder of Gravity Payments, a credit card processing and financial services company.
Oh, so he's a baddie? That depends. Does taking a \$1m pay cut in order to give every one of your 120 staff a comfortable salary sound like something a baddie would do?
I guess not. Well, that is what Dan Price did. After an argument with an employee who felt he wasn't being paid his worth, Price went away and studied economic theory to discover how much money the average American needs to be happy.
And how much is that? \$70,000 or £54,000.
So what did he do? He started paying everyone \$70,000. For a third of his employees, this meant doubling their wages.
But wouldn't all that money just make everyone lazy? Apparently not. Since the announcement, the amount of money that Gravity Payments processes has tripled. The belief is that - now they are not preoccupied with the problem of how to make ends meet - the employees are more focused on their jobs, and happier because they work for a company that recognises their value.
How do you measure happiness? Price has said that more employees are buying homes and starting families as a result of his decision. They are getting fit, too. And kinder; they recently all chipped in to buy Price a new car. It all seems like a perfect example of socialism in action.
So are more companies following his lead? Nope. Price thinks that he might have influenced Amazon's decision to raise its minimum wage, but then again Amazon's boss is one of the world's richest men. If he was to share his worth among his 800,000 employees, they would each be on double what Price pays his.
But should more companies follow his lead? Well, that's another question.
Why? Well, would you want to be paid the same amount as all your colleagues?
Yes! My God! Have you seen what some of these people are on? But what about the guy who tweets cat gifs all day? Should he earn the same as you?
No, he should obviously earn much less. It's tricky, isn't it? Price and Gravity Payments must have fought through the human tendency to assign themselves a higher salary before taking this step.
But they did it. And look, paradise was on the other side. It just goes to show the amazing things that can happen when everyone is paid fairly and equally.
Do say: "All companies should pay their employees the same amount."
Don't say: "And that amount should be double what I currently make."



Six objects that can spread coronavirus

As public health officials around the world battle to contain the spread of coronavirus, the World Health Organization has warned that banknotes may transmit the disease. "We know that money changes hands frequently and can pick up all sorts of bacteria and viruses," a WHO spokesman told the Telegraph. "We would advise people to wash their hands after handling banknotes, and avoid touching their face." The spokesman also advises using contactless payment options wherever possible, to minimise the risk. So, which objects pose the greatest risk of coronavirus transmission?



Banknotes
Banknotes can carry the coronavirus, but the risk is small. Don't worry too much about loose change. "Coins are very bad environments for viruses," says Dr Christine Tait-Burkard, an expert in infection and immunity at University of Edinburgh.



Office kitchens
Coffee machines or kettles will be handled by multiple people, so it's a good idea to use hand sanitiser after doing the tea round.



ATMs or ticket machines
"If you're withdrawing money from a machine, that is also something that is going to be touched by many people," says Prof Jürgen Haas, the head of infection medicine at the University of Edinburgh. Ditto ticket machines.



Handrails
Escalators, tube handrails, banisters - all will be touched constantly, potentially by thousands of people a day. "If you're on public transport, there's no way not to touch the handrails," says Tait-Burkard. "So when you get off, disinfect your hands."



Anything in a GP surgery
"The public health advice is that you should call 111, rather than go to your GP, if you fear you have coronavirus," says Tait-Burkard. "But there will be some people who go to the GP." She points out that GP surgeries usually provide free hand disinfectant.



Airplane seats
"International travel is a risk factor for transmission," says Tait-Burkard. So make like Naomi Campbell, and wipe down your seat pre-takeoff.
Sirin Kale

How to talk to kids about climate fears

What's going to happen? Is everyone going to die? Questions that come up a bit in our house, from a concerned eight-year-old. In the past weeks, the focus of the anxiety might have been on you-know-what-19, but before then it was all about the future of the planet.
It is no massive surprise then that a survey for BBC Newsround has found that one in five kids have nightmares about the climate crisis. Or that two-fifths of the 2,000 children polled (aged eight to 16) don't trust adults to sort it out.
David Spellman, a clinical psychologist who works with children, thinks there might be a bit more out there in the ether of digital media to trigger kids' fear; that the coverage can be a bit hysterical (a common question put to experts is: how worried should we be?); and in Greta Thunberg there is someone kids can relate and listen to. Even so, children have always had catastrophic fears. "In my day - I'm 56 - it was about nuclear war," Spellman says. "That was something that was bewildering, but felt real."
He thinks adults can have the romantic notion that childhood is



A brief guide to rubbish compliments

Chris Matthews, one of the US's best-known news anchors, has summarily quit his job at MSNBC following complaints about his reported remarks to a female guest. They are quite something, when you see them all written down. "Why haven't I fallen in love with you yet?", the journalist Laura Bassett says he asked her. She wrote in GQ: "When I laughed nervously and said nothing, he followed up to the makeup artist. 'Keep putting makeup on her, I'll fall in love with her.'"
What is wrong with this "compliment"? It's in the classic negging style, the quick one-two: one, clearly you are highly desirable, otherwise why would a man such as myself expect to have fallen for you? Two, there is room for improvement, quick, put some

worry-free, but notes that we have become more aware of what children worry about, take it more seriously and are more open in understanding it. It need not be crippling.

Listening is key. “The danger is we dive in to lecture and advise rather than listen. It’s important to find ways to communicate, make sure they can talk about stuff,” says Spellman. And help them to become active consumers of information, to raise questions, ask what - and who - can be trusted. “I quite like the current trend for fact-checking people,” he adds.

“When you’re talking about huge things, like the climate and disease, the overwhelming scale of these things is apparent to everyone,” says Spellman. “The small things they can do to make a difference are often helpful.” So, if the worry leads not to being unable to get out of bed, but to taking some kind of effective action, then that is maybe not so bad.

Sam Wollaston



more makeup on, then my animal urges might overcome me. Negging objectification is the worst kind, containing that catastrophic hubris, “You, lady, will be so thrilled by my partial desire that you’ll be instantly looking for tips on how to increase it.”

Any blanket objectification that suggests you are being bagged up by the pound for desirability - comments on your walk, your arse or indeed any particular body part - is a bit unnerving. It’s dehumanising when people talk about you as if you’re Lego and can be disaggregated into components.

Comparative compliments - you have lost weight, look better/fitter/more beautiful than ever - suggest to the recipient that she is on a constant appraisal, though God knows it’s not mutual, since she could never turn around and say: “Thanks, you are carrying around a little more weight, though only around your jowls.”

Overly carnal phrases - you look delicious/good enough to eat - are too much, unless you have a lot of shared history, which here I am using as a euphemism for “have shagged”.

Finally, any suggestion of surprise, particularly around age - “you look great for 55” - is in neg territory. This week, Kristin Scott Thomas told Radio Times: “I’m fed up of having to say ‘thank you’ when someone says I’ve still got it.” The correct compliment for Scott Thomas, by the way, is to fall on your knees and say: “You are everything.” Because she is everything.

Zoe Williams



Say what?

A cat in Merseyside has been reunited with her family, having been missing for more than a year. Pixie had been living in a warehouse 30 miles away from her home and was found by the RSPCA, which had been tipped off by workers in the area.

Arwa Mahdawi



Socialism is surging in the US because capitalism has failed

When you think about hotbeds of socialism, Texas is not the first place that comes to mind. However, according to a CBS News/YouGov poll last month, 56% of Democratic primary voters in the Lone Star state say they have a positive view of socialism while only 37% have a favourable view of capitalism. It is a similar story in California.

Does this mean the two most populous states in the US are ready to embrace revolution? No. But this poll reflects a couple of hugely important shifts in the US’s political landscape and national psyche. First, there is Texas’s move to the left. The traditionally Republican state has become notably less conservative in recent years thanks to a growing Hispanic population and the migration of young, out-of-state liberals to its growing tech industry. Texas is predicted to be far more competitive in the general election than it has been in the past; it won’t be easy, but it is no longer implausible that the state will turn blue. Whether Joe Biden or Bernie Sanders has a better chance of making that happen, however, is hotly contested.

More broadly, the poll reflects a step-change in US attitudes towards the economic system. The country has not so much warmed to socialism as it has cooled on capitalism. This is hardly surprising when you consider how the latter has failed ordinary Americans. The poorest men in the US have the same life expectancy as men in Sudan. Maternal mortality more than doubled between 1991 and 2014. The middle class has shrunk. People are desperate for an alternative.

Capitalism is central to the US’s national identity; conservatives view the country’s move towards socialism, as personified in the rise of Sanders, as nothing short of an existential crisis. “America v socialism” was the official theme of this year’s Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), an annual gathering of US conservatives. “Our view is it’s not capitalism versus socialism, because socialism isn’t just about economics,” a CPAC organiser told attendees earlier this week. “Socialism ... gets to the very core of violating the dignity of the individual human being that has God-given rights.”

Centrist Democrats are equally fired up. They see Sanders’ success as an existential threat to the party. Parallels have been drawn with George McGovern, a senator who advocated for universal health care, railed against corporations and had enthusiastic support from the young. McGovern beat the odds and won the Democratic nomination in 1972; he lost the general election to Richard Nixon in a landslide. Parallels have also been drawn with Jeremy Corbyn. We all know how that turned out.

I am not sure there is much to be gained by these comparisons. For one, income inequality in the US was far lower in the 70s than it is now. Also, Sanders does not have Brexit complicating matters. But if we are going to invoke cautionary historical precedents, why not look at 2016, when Hillary Clinton, the most centrist of centrists, could not beat Trump? Honestly, I don’t know if the US is ready for a socialist president, but it may be more ready than it has been before.



Blindingly entertaining television

I have been practising for a coronavirus quarantine by locking myself in my flat and binge-watching Love Is Blind on Netflix. If you haven’t heard of it, the premise is this: a bunch of conventionally attractive heterosexual people talk to each other through a wall. The ones that hit it off get engaged without having seen each other. Then they reveal their faces and, ergo, whether love really is blind. It is like Blind Date meets arranged marriage meets Lord of the Flies. It is an extremely guilty pleasure, but it is hard to tear my eyes away.

Would I clone my beloved rescue dog? Fur sure

You are at level one of crazy dog parent when you throw your pooch a birthday or bark mitzvah. You are at level two when your dog has more clothes than you do. And you are at level 100 when you store your dog’s skin samples and spend \$50,000 (£39,000) to clone it.

David and Alicia Tschirhart are level 100 pet parents. The Californian couple made headlines recently for cloning Marley, their pet Labrador. Marley was an extremely good boy; he once fought off a rattlesnake, possibly saving a pregnant Alicia’s life. When Marley died from cancer, his owners had a hard time letting him go, so they didn’t: they used a pet cloning company to create a genetically identical puppy called Ziggy. “They have the same personality, they play the same, they favour the same toys,” Alicia told reporters.

I didn’t grow up with pets, apart from a short-lived stick insect (regular readers may remember poor Fatima). So there was a time when I would have thought anyone who cloned a dog was barking mad. I would probably have been holier than thou about how irresponsible it was to spend a fortune genetically reproducing an animal. I would have wrung my hands over celebrities such as Barbra Streisand, who cloned her dog Samantha and then had the facsimiles pose at the grave of their “mother”.

That was in the years BC (before canine). Now that I have a dog, I understand completely. If money were no object I would 100% clone Rascal, my tiny rescue mutt. Rascal has never saved me from a rattlesnake and, to be honest, I doubt he would. He would probably just sniff the snake while it killed me. But he has saved me in other ways and I would do anything to extend my time with him. It would be a doggone shame not to.

Anti-austerity
protesters take
to the streets in
January 2019



The lost decade: how austerity broke Britain

Ten years of Conservative cuts have destroyed the fabric of our society. **Polly Toynbee** and **David Walker** have been speaking to people on the frontline, who reveal how our lives have been changed for ever

What happened in the UK between 2010 and 2020 will scar us for the rest of our lives. David Cameron's Conservatives, only just victorious in the 2010 election, sold austerity as a necessary response to the 2008 financial crash. The exact social consequences of these cuts were spelled out last week in Michael Marmot's report for the Institute of Health Equity: for the first time in a century, life expectancy has stopped growing and for women in poor areas has actually fallen. We should never stop reminding ourselves just what an astonishing

decade we have lived through. In the aftermath of the crash, employment climbed and stayed high. But these new jobs paid badly and it took until two months ago for earnings to reach where they were before 2008. It is no surprise that debt is mountainous: each household owes on average £15,385, not counting mortgages. The gap between rich and poor has widened; the young are now worse off than their parents at their age; home ownership has declined steeply – families are stuck in life-long and precarious private renting.

In our 2010 book *The Verdict*, we evaluated the Blair-Brown era, years of marked social progress. For a new investigation, to assess the extent of the past decade's damage, we went back to the people we talked to then to see how they have fared since and the hidden ways that austerity has affected their lives.

We followed the fortunes of Emma Percy, in Folkestone, Kent. With her husband, Rob, and three children, the family moved from one rented home to another, changing the children's schools as rents rose, roofs leaked. They were sometimes living without a functioning boiler all winter long. They were the "just about managing". Theresa May never got round to helping. Emma and Rob did all the striving and aspiring the prime minister had called for, hoping to save for a deposit, but never quite making enough. In the summer, the only holiday they could afford was camping in the grounds of the school where Rob was caretaker. Their parents own homes; they may never do so.

Decades take shape in the rearview mirror. Even as the past decade was unfolding, people were aware times were out of joint, an unprecedented

number telling a Hansard Society survey at the end of 2018 that the UK was in decline. Everyone saw that pressing national tasks were neglected, as carbon cuts and affordable housing targets were missed, as transport worsened along with education and productivity. Instead, massive efforts were diverted into ideological futility. On the whims of ministers, probation was broken apart, forensic services wrecked and enormous effort wasted on pushing England's schools out of public control into semi-private academies and trusts, in evidence-free reorganisations.

People expect someone to monitor air and water quality, inspect restaurants and food standards. But the environmental health officers we visited in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, were inspecting fewer kebab shops and closing air-monitoring stations despite more pollution. We were there on an inspection when they found a stack of meat pies on the dirty floor of a roadside cafe: the officer told us they register fewer food outlets as high risk, for lack of staff to check them. Nationally, one in 10 takeaways now score zero or one for hygiene and safety. Andy Birks, a butcher in Rotherham in South Yorkshire, told us he hadn't seen a health inspector in years. "I don't think there are any left," he said. Like so many high-street shops, his business had

Child poverty soared to its highest level since before the second world war

declined in the decade since we first met him, his profits down since 2010.

The Food Standards Agency tests 58% fewer samples and the National Audit Office (NAO) says local authorities are “failing to meet their legal responsibilities”, with staff numbers cut by 45%. Checks that establish if food is safe and contains what it says – not horse meat – were few and far between: the NAO found only 37% of food checks scheduled actually took place. Time and again, in one field after another, we found the covert fraying of the fabric of a civilisation we take for granted.

A Friday night in the control room with Bedfordshire police told the same story of services stretched to breaking point. Mental health and domestic violence dominated the calls. A neighbour reported a man next door banging on his wife’s window, threatening violence. A man called as he chased his son across a dark park, terrified he might harm himself. The chief constable, Jon Boutcher, had just written to his MP recounting a typical night of rapes, stabbings and a lethal traffic accident involving young children. “I run out of officers regularly for 999 calls,” he said.

Meanwhile, the UK got older, with no plan for the decade’s 25% rise in those aged over 65. Social care was a can kicked down the road; as a result, 1.5 million frail old people get no care at all: at the end of the decade, the Johnson government’s response was to deny visas to care staff from abroad, as they earn too little to reach a new £25,600 threshold.

In Hastings, East Sussex, we watched the closure of another day centre, the building sold by the cash-strapped council. This was the seventh of these havens for older adults to close in the town since 2010. We talked to Rose, Mary and Sal, old friends sitting together as they always did, now for the last time.

Home alone, the statistics showed that many more would arrive in A&E malnourished or dehydrated. That is the constant perversity of austerity; scrimping a bit now to cost more later.

Everywhere, we found a sense of common belonging diminished, with fewer meeting places, playing fields sold off, museums and libraries closed. As the public realm shrank, so did social capital, the ONS found,



Police numbers are down while food banks are overstretched



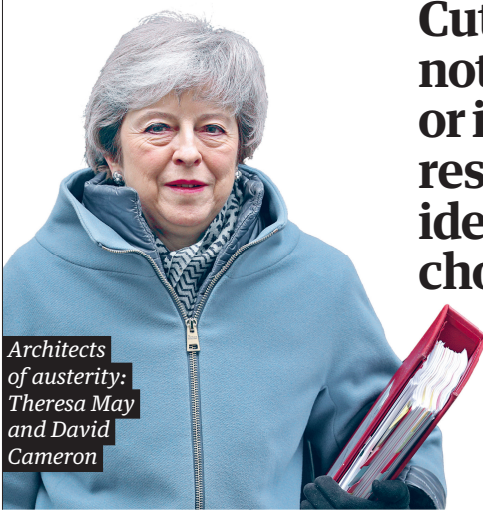
with less trust and neighbours not talking to one another. Pub closures – premises were down from 52,500 in 2001 to 38,000 by 2020 – were another loss of sociability.

Cameron’s “big society” gimmick delivered a smaller one, as people donated less to charities and volunteering declined. Foreign journalists filmed the Britain of food banks, the homeless, payday loans, bedroom tax and zero-hours jobs. The Conservatives’ pitch in 2010 had been repairing “broken Britain”, but its cracks were widened by an austerity that was neither necessary nor inevitable but resulted from ideological choices. The cap on housing benefit created socially segregated no-go areas for low earners. Councils lost a third of their spending power: buses, planning, housing, youth services and sports facilities were cut or sold off. Nature suffered: Natural England, custodian of flora and fauna in national parks, lost half its budget and shed 1,000 inspectors. Eleven million trees were promised, 1.4m planted.

One service always in the public eye was the NHS. But its 2010 training cuts left it short of 100,000 nurses and doctors. Spending time with the chief executive of Ipswich hospital, we watched as he begged a senior nurse not to leave. Jenny (not her real name), one of his best and most dedicated nurses, had turned around his difficult chemotherapy

ward, caring for seriously ill people, where deaths of patients exacted a heavy emotional toll on staff. But, taking a deep breath, she told him: “I just can’t keep going.” She would join the nursing bank for occasional shifts, but her departure would add to the 41,000 nurse vacancies. Her team cried when she told them.

The public realm now employs a smaller proportion of the workforce than at any time since 1945. For every £100 for public services in 2010, only £86 in real terms was spent in 2020.



Rebuilding schools and hospitals stopped dead. A quarter of local government jobs vanished, with youth workers tackling knife crime the first to go. Criminal justice was hard hit: courts closed; prisons overflowed with violence and drug abuse rife; legal aid was pared to nothing. The armed forces were not spared. Grants to arts organisations fell by a third, funding for national galleries and museums by a half.

It is a perverse society that chooses to harm its youngest most, but years of frozen benefits left families thousands of pounds short, while the old saw their triple-locked pensions rise. State spending per child fell from £11,300 to £10,000. Early intervention for families was so scarce that the numbers of children in care rose fast. Psychiatrists estimated that one in five girls and young women had cut, burned or poisoned themselves in deliberate acts of self-harm on a rising trend: waiting lists for help stretched to a year in some places. Children deprived at school of art, music and drama teaching have lost that chance for ever, with only half taking any arts exams, and trips out severely cut. In 2018, 130 libraries shut and 760 youth clubs closed. This year begins with a million lost young people classified as “Neet”; not in employment or education.

Child poverty soared to its highest level since before the second world war. Infant mortality rose for the first time in two generations. The Thomas Coram Research Institute collected children’s own accounts: “I was so hungry, it was like I got hit in my belly, like I got stabbed with a knife,” 14-year-old Emmanuel told it. The threshold for claiming free school meals halved. More than 2,000 food banks opened, four times more in districts where universal credit – one of the decade’s greatest, but by no means only, disasters – was rolled out. Ministers’ talk of “scroungers” hardened public hearts. In Knowsley, on Merseyside, a food bank organiser collecting donations was asked: “Is this for English people?” He replied: “It’s for hungry people.”

Of course, these years were not monochrome. Plenty of good happened because people are admirably resilient: we found enterprise, generosity and public

servants holding it all together with superhuman effort. Despite cuts to subsidies, renewable energy outdid expectations. Film studios flourished, UK acting grabbed glittering prizes and athletes triumphed. But everywhere decaying high streets were a metaphor for national malaise, as internet retail sucked the life out of bricks-and-mortar shops, its US owners paying negligible tax to compensate.

Andy Brooke in Derby had his own bespoke bike business when we first met him, full of hope for the future of his highly specialised service for serious contenders. His shop seemed the perfect spot, near where the council was building a velodrome. But the Brexit vote left uncertainty among his clients from Derby’s big companies. “Overnight, people became very, very careful with their money,” he said. Nationwide, bike sales went down. “Before the referendum, we’d been selling two bikes a week, but now it was down to two a month.” He went bust, his company filing for insolvency. Derby council’s velodrome suffered a similar fate: it made a heavy loss. “This has been a hard time for me,” said Brooke. “I got married and I was busy organising the wedding at the same time as I was dealing with the shop’s bankruptcy.” Looking back, he was rueful. “I was so uplifted by the 2012 Olympics. That showed us off as a great multicultural hub, welcoming everyone. Then came the referendum, so many political lies. Now the country’s creeping in the wrong direction.” So he is emigrating to the US, a young remainer despairing of Britain. “I’ve been offered something in sports science in the US. We want children, but we don’t want to bring them up here any more, not in this atmosphere.”

Brexit was mainly caused by the partisan austerity created by the shrinking of the public sphere by Conservative governments. To win power, Johnson promised to repair his party’s depredations with eye-catching projects. His Brexit rhetoric has raised expectations, but his commitment to “levelling up” is a deceit unless it reverses all the financial and social forces that have been accelerating poverty since 2010.

The lost decade was a Tory decade and perhaps the next one will be, too. They broke Britain; do they really mean to mend it? *The Lost Decade 2010-2020 and What Lies Ahead for Britain*, by Polly Toynbee and David Walker, is published by Faber on 5 March, £10.99 rrp. To order a copy for £8.99 with free UK p&p for orders over £15, visit Guardian Bookshop or call 020 3176 3837. Polly Toynbee and David Walker will discuss *The Lost Decade* at a Guardian Live event at Kings Place, London N1 9AG on Wednesday 1 April

Cuts were not necessary or inevitable but resulted from ideological choices

Bronwen Griffiths' oak ...
'I kissed my first boyfriend there'



'It's a cliché - but I feel an urge to give it a big hug'

We stand under them, propose next to them, swing on them ... or just gaze in awe at the ancient grandeur above us. **Phil Daoust** asked Guardian readers for stories about their favourite trees. Here are some of the best

Almost 50 years ago, when Bronwen Griffiths was growing up in the Worcestershire village of Belbroughton, she lost her heart to a tree. "That oak was part of my childhood," she recalls. "I kissed my first boyfriend there. We didn't stay together long, but he still has a photograph of the tree in his office in the US."

Her love for the tree outlasted her teenage romance. "When my mother was old and could no longer go walking with me," Bronwen continues, "I used to visit it for solace. It's hollow inside, and one late afternoon I came eye to eye with an owl."

Bronwen wrote to us just before Christmas, after we asked readers to tell us about their favourite trees. That first reply was followed by

more than 800, from California to Canberra, Kilkenny to Kathmandu. Among many, many oaks - especially from the UK - were redwoods, junipers, ashes, ginkgos, beeches, mulberries, rowans, chestnuts, hornbeams, poplars, London planes, maples, catalpas, baobabs, aspens, gumbo-limbos ...

The highlights can be found in our new series Tree of the week, which starts next Monday.

What's so great about trees? Well, to start with, as the Guardian's Christmas appeal highlighted, they have huge potential to mitigate the climate crisis: "Trees are vital in producing oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. They can prevent flooding and soil erosion. They provide shelter and shade, and reduce air and noise pollution."

We are also inspired by trees' "sense of permanence", says Christina Harrison, the editor of Kew magazine and co-author of the book Remarkable Trees. "They live on a different timescale from us, and there is a powerful sense that if you

plant or protect a tree today you are truly leaving a positive mark on the planet, which remains long after you've gone."

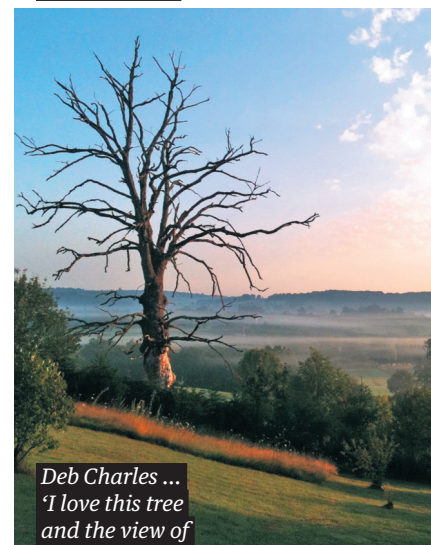
You would, of course, also be giving animals a home and hunting ground. In New Zealand's Auckland region, Barry Read's *Podocarpus totara* teems with birds such as "tui, kererū, lorikeets, waxeyes and piwakawaka. It's like a village in there!" Meanwhile, Pete Hallmann's favourite oak in Hampshire "is host to squirrels, bats and insects. It acts as a perch for herons, woodpeckers and the resident kingfisher."

We humans also have a soft spot for anything that feeds us. US-born Meg Cutts bought her home in East Sussex after falling for its apple tree. "I make chutney, apple sauce, apple butter, cider vinegar and cider every autumn," she says. In Gers, south-west France, Dick Pyle harvests truffles from his favourite holm oak.

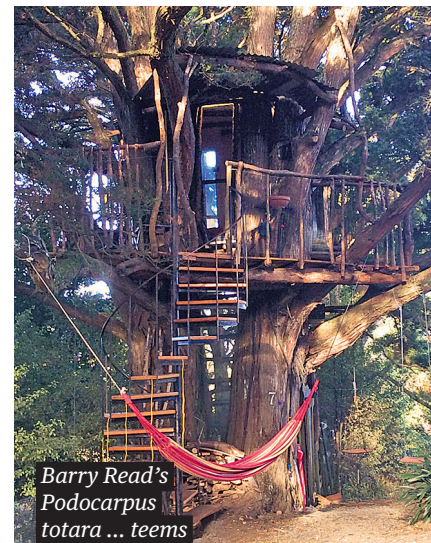
But trees nourish our souls as well as our bodies. We are intrigued by their complexity and contradictions; by the way they bridge the earth and the sky, by their inner busyness and



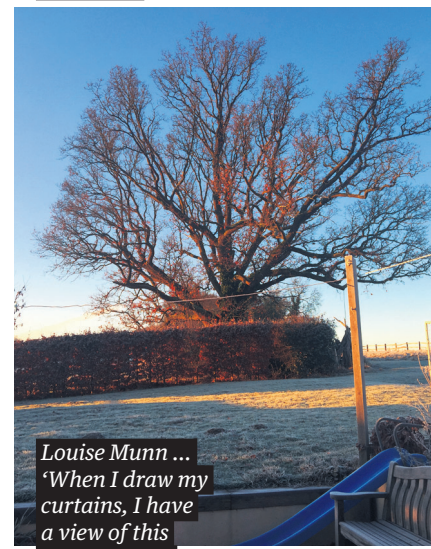
Nicola Muir's Hampstead tree ...
I don't usually feel compelled to embrace trees



Deb Charles ...
'I love this tree and the view of life beyond it'



Barry Read's *Podocarpus totara* ... teems with birds



Louise Munn ...
'When I draw my curtains, I have a view of this majestic tree'

outer idleness. They inspire awe and affection, comfort us in times of trouble, are landmarks in our journeys through the landscape and life itself. “He is my old friend,” Yves Barbeau says of the rain tree he used to pass every day on Holland Road in Singapore.

“Trees are shaped anthropomorphically,” Max Adams, the author of *Trees of Life*, says. “They’re upright, with armlike branches. It’s totally understandable how all cultures around the world, particularly in Europe, have this idea of trees as living, animated souls, such as JRR Tolkien’s Ents.”

One reader, Nicola Muir, a yoga teacher from London, recently encountered a sycamore on Hampstead Heath that had a powerful effect on her. “For some reason, I felt an urge to give it a big hug. Yes, I know that’s a cliché – for a yoga teacher to hug a tree – but I don’t usually feel compelled to embrace trees while ambling across the heath.”

She has been back to see it every day. “I love the feeling of support it gives me – thinking of its deep roots beneath me, feeling the steadiness of its trunk behind me, and gazing up at its seemingly endless branches above me.”

Now in her early 40s, Polly Gutkowski, from Wiltshire, has happy memories of the garden of her childhood home in Gravesend. “It was my adventure playground, with the weeping willow the central focus. My dad fixed a rope and a swing to it. My two brothers and I climbed it regularly and each had our own particular branch that we sat on. My branch was the highest; I could poke my head out the top of the leaves and see all across the neighbourhood. My dad pruned the tree sometimes and I remember making dens in the piles of the long twigs and branches.”

In East Sussex, Louise Munn has been sharing her life with an oak for the last 15 years. “When I draw my curtains every day, I have a view of this majestic tree from my bed,” she says. “I have my morning coffee observing it and spend my quiet morning contemplation time with it in my eyeline. When in labour with my youngest child” – she has three – “I counted the spaces between the twigs and branches to get through each building contraction throughout the dawn. For my 40th birthday, my mum drew me a portrait of the tree, so I can still see its essence when the curtains are drawn in the darkness.”

There is a beautiful lime in the garden of Carolyn Folland’s home in the French region of Haute-Vienne. Carolyn, who is in her 70s, writes: “It comes into leaf earlier than most of the other trees – so it brings spring a little bit earlier. It shelters pine martens, and a golden oriole sings in its branches in the summer. Some of my husband’s ashes are buried among the roots, which are now planted with tulips and daffodils.”

Trees are natural memorials for many others, too. In California, Eric Castleman makes a daily visit to one that reminds him of his late father. “I speak to it as if I am speaking

I love the feeling of support it gives me – thinking of its deep roots beneath me

directly to him. Season after season it comes to life and sheds its leaves. I’ve watched it for 14 years and somehow just seeing it makes a bad day seem a little better.” In Staffordshire, there is a beech under which Anthony Cheetham proposed to his now wife, and later scattered the ashes of their first dog. “We now regularly walk to the tree with our children and new dog, Hector, to say hello and admire the view.”

Incidentally, if you’re wondering how to tell a beech from a birch, or a hawthorn from a blackthorn, Patrick Harding, who runs tree ID courses for the Woodland Trust, “heartily recommends” *The Tree Name Trail*, a guide to the UK’s native and common non-native species. That might help the readers who can only say that their favourite tree is “big”, “unknown”, “generic” or “not a larch”.

Patrick’s own favourite tree is a six-metre-tall strawberry tree, which he planted 20 years ago. “I can see from my study window. It is currently covered with creamy-white, bell-shaped flowers, but for much of the rest of the year, it will be covered with fruits like tiny ripe strawberries. The fruits do not taste nice; can’t have it all.”

Many readers told us how they feared wildfire, flooding or disease threatening their beloved trees. Drew Whitmore, from Suffolk, noticed that the walnut by his rented cottage was rotting from the inside. “The landlord thought it would need to be chopped down before it died and possibly fell on the house.”

Instead, Drew “decided to try a bit of instinctive surgery and began scooping out the rotting debris from inside the wound by hand. It was a smelly and quite distressing operation; I had my arm completely inside the tree and down below ground level, scooping the rot out as best I could. I then packed the space with soil.”

That was nearly 20 years ago – “and the walnut is still with us”.

But that is a blink of an eye for some species. Readers wrote to celebrate yews that were 1,500, 2,000, 2,500 years old. Nicholas Nethercott’s, in St Michael’s church in the Powys hamlet of Discoed, “could be as old as 5,000”, according to a certificate signed by the botanist David Bellamy. “We regard great age as a supreme virtue,” notes Max



Gillian Hughes ...
‘I was able to introduce my infant sons to the tree’



Nicholas Nethercott’s churchyard tree ...
‘Could be as old as 5,000’

Adams. “An ancient tree has defied everything and we admire it.”

Jonathan Miller, a librarian, has high hopes for the sand live oak that grew beside his former home in Florida. “The tree was magnificent, shading most of the roof. In hurricanes, it would rock from side to side, but it survived at least one direct lightning strike during our time. It could live for hundreds of years if the owners of the house don’t screw it up.” He sold the house in 2017 – “but I hope that tree will be there long after the house, and perhaps our whole civilisation, is gone”.

And if not? Death does not stop a tree’s emotional pull. Deb Charles, from London, got to know a “majestic” dead tree in her parents’

garden in Lot, south-west France. Her dad died six years ago, and her mum has moved, “yet this tree still stands proud – and oh how I admire its defiance. My dad once told me when I was anxious about life: ‘Go stand under a tree and realise just how insignificant you are.’ And I love this tree and the view of life beyond it because that is what life is about. Courage. Defiance. And pride.”

Sally, from Cardiff, can’t identify the leafless trunk that she passes in nearby Marshfield, but that doesn’t stop her and her partner calling it “our tree”. “It has retained its magic and beauty even in death,” she says, “like the precious memories of a loved one who has died.”

Some trees can be chopped down or rot to nothing yet still cast

a shadow. When Gillian Hughes was a schoolgirl in Liverpool in the 60s, she used to gather conkers from a horse chestnut and plant them in her family’s garden. Later, she says, “I was able to introduce my infant sons to the tree, to stand under its great spread in the snow, and to find my enjoyment of its majesty reflected in their young eyes.”

Last year, the tree succumbed to disease and had to be felled. “I am upset,” Gillian wrote, “but I understand the turning of the generations. And I am happy to see a small children’s play area constructed in the tree’s now-imagined shade.”

Tell us about your favourite tree by filling in the form at [gu.com/favourite-trees](https://www.theguardian.com/favourite-trees)

Oui, je t'aime: how to dress like a Parisian

Gallic chic is more in vogue than ever - and the Paris fashion week trends will translate easily to our wardrobes, says **Jess Cartner-Morley**

Y

ou don't have to be French to be a Parisian," Karl Lagerfeld once said. Lagerfeld wasn't one to sugarcoat his views on who was or wasn't chic, so I have always been encouraged by his generosity here. As well as by the example of Betty Catroux - muse to Yves Saint Laurent, and the subject of an exhibition just opened at the YSL museum in the city - who is Gallic chic to the core, but was born in Brazil. I have had two decades of Paris fashion weeks to try to master the faux-Parisian look and, while I still haven't nailed it, I like to think I have picked up a bit here and there.

I have the getting-dressed equivalent of speaking holiday-French, I guess. I don't pass for a native, but I can put together an outfit that allows me to get seated at Cafe de Flore on Boulevard Saint-Germain at a table that isn't the one where the loo door bangs in your face.

Parisian chic is more in vogue now than it ever was, because it is the most sustainable way to be stylish.

The Parisian thing was never about trends or dramatic reinventions. It has always been about an elegant line, a flattering colour, a charming detail; about a modern wardrobe of pieces that harmonise, rather than about standalone outfits and abrupt changes of direction. In Britain, we tend to think of having great personal style as something flamboyant. We celebrate people who wear hats every day, or punk leathers, or three colours in every outfit, or ballgowns to work, or whatever. The allure of the Paris look - to women all over the world - is the idea that you can have great personal style while basically wearing normal clothes. You can be chic in jeans and a navy jumper, every day - although it is precisely this subtlety that makes chic tricky to nail. Jeans and a navy jumper, yes - but they have to be exactly right.

Here are a few things that Paris isn't about any more: skirt suits; chignons; strings of pearls; shift dresses; ribsticker-snug jackets; lapdogs; and cigarettes. Parisian style isn't reinvented every season, but that doesn't mean the look doesn't change - on the contrary, when a look is simple, the details are everything. (Yes to silk scarves, but on your ponytail or your handbag, rather than around your neck.) The one-line take on how Paris has evolved is that the look is less precious than it was - although it retains certain airs and graces. Paris has not quite embraced the athleisure revolution to the extent that Britain has - a degree of snobbery around sportswear remains - although trainers are now subbed in for kitten heels, to a large extent. But there is more to it than that, obviously.

I am writing this at Paris fashion week, AKA the mothership of chic. For our purposes today, I am going to ignore all the headline-grabbing trends I have seen - the latex leggings, the supersized hats, the inevitable face masks - because, while these are fun to look at, they don't, when it comes down to it, have anything helpful to contribute to the what-shall-I-actually-wear issue. It is much more useful to look at what collections tell us about modern Parisian chic - and how we can



The model Kateryna Lashko sports a trench coat at Paris fashion week, AW20



Margot Robbie in 90s Chanel at the 2020 Oscars



A cinched blazer on the Chloé, catwalk



Black and red on the Valentino catwalk



The actor Naomi Ackie in an oversized coat



Biker-meets-welly-style boots from Chanel



Givenchy's
cream trouser
suit



Betty Catroux,
the French
model and muse
to Yves Saint
Laurent, in 1969

Yes to silk scarves, but on your ponytail or your handbag, rather than around your neck

translate that into our wardrobes.

The first takeaway is that you are going to want to wear your biggest coat. Anything neat and snugly tailored looks old, now - a bit Guy-Ritchie-gangster-goes-up-west. Trench coats are still everywhere on the front row. Balmain, the spiritual home of bodycon, opened with a procession of oversized black coats. In her new style book, *Older but Better*, but *Older*, Caroline de Maigret, the model and Chanel ambassador, advises buying jackets and coats one size up, and all week I have been noticing how many chic French (or French-looking) women do exactly that. The shape you want in a coat or blazer is oversized, not baggy, so you need a strong shoulder.

The standout look of the Givenchy show was a cream trouser suit that was oversized, but with a pin-sharp silhouette. At Chloe, a grey tweed blazer cinched with a wide belt, over high-waisted trousers and a checked shirt, looked a useful template for real-life dressing.

You will notice, looking at the photos here, that the models aren't smiling. Well, actually, you may not have noticed, because catwalk models have never been a smiley bunch, but even by fashion-week standards there is a certain coolness

to the emotional tone of modern Parisian chic at the moment: Billie Eilish, but make it fashion. Not many florals, and when they do turn up they tend to be the midnight-garden dark-floral variety. The Chanel designer Virginie Viard described the tone of the season as "emotion, but without any frills". Her catwalk was a love letter to the unmatched chic of black and white. White on the top half, black on the bottom: a simple formula for harmony. Monochrome and beige are timeless staples of Parisian chic. This season, in keeping with the drama of the zeitgeist, splashes of crimson are making a comeback. Black and red - a classic YSL colour combination - was everywhere from Alexander McQueen and Valentino to Stella McCartney.

A new look doesn't have to mean new clothes. These are the kind of pieces that you can source via a rummage in your wardrobe. Paris is championing vintage, at the highest level: archive Chanel is becoming a power move, on Vogue covers and on the red carpet. After Margot Robbie wore a 90s Chanel couture gown to the Oscars, Eva Green wore an archive Chanel piece to the César awards in Paris this week. That Chanel, a house that has, arguably, launched more trends than any other, is putting its might behind vintage as a status symbol is a leap forward for Paris fashion week.

A great leap forward calls for sturdy footwear. The days when Parisian chic required dainty courts are over. The word on the ground from Paris is that sturdy boots are the new trainers: at Hermès and Dior, chunky riding boots ruled. Virginie Viard called her flat, biker-meets-wellie-style Chanel footwear "seven-league boots", after the kind that Lagerfeld used to wear. (In Charles Perrault's fairytales, a seven-league boot allows the wearer to travel seven leagues - around 21 miles - in each stride.) The 2020 version of French chic is surely its most practical incarnation ever. This look is a fashion-week dream that works for real life. Too good not to copy, frankly. I am proud to call myself a faux-Parisian.

The look I love



Kim Novak 'Hitchcock paid so much attention to colour - I am definitely influenced by him'

This is my favourite outfit. My sister Arlene made the chaps out of calfskin and I made the tunic. She knew horses were a part of my life [Novak left Hollywood in the 60s to raise horses and paint], so she made mini-chaps for me. I named my horse Nur Jahan, which means "light of the universe" in Persian; I rode wearing this outfit until it got burnt in a house fire in 2000. Since then, I've made more clothes using hides.

I think this look was ahead of its time. I always go for something comfortable and something you can move in, because I'm out in nature a lot.

My favourite outfit from the movies was the lavender jersey dress that I wore as Judy in *Vertigo*. Wearing it on set, I felt totally liberated - before that, I had been playing Madeleine, who was very uptight and rigid. Suddenly,

I was free of wearing the grey suit that most people remember, which made me feel very limited. The costume department made the dress in my favourite colour because they wanted me to feel totally relaxed as Judy.

When I'm painting, I wear a jersey top and yoga pants; if I'm using oils, I also wear a smock. Alfred Hitchcock [who directed *Vertigo*] paid so much

attention to colour and how he dressed his actors. I am definitely influenced by him - my paintings are all mysteries. I often write poetry to go with the paintings and I do it to drop clues, as Hitchcock did in his films.

In 2012, I had fat injections in my cheeks, but it was the worst thing I could have done. When Donald Trump took a pop [in a tweet criticising her appearance at the 2014 Oscars], it became an issue. I'm a perfectionist - when I do something in public, I want to look my best. That night, I wore an outfit that wasn't very glamorous; I felt very insecure and I took a pill to relax, because I was nervous. It was a disaster, unfortunately, but I didn't let it stop me. One day I would like to present another Oscar, and come out there on my horse.

As told to Leah Harper

I always go for something you can move in. I'm out in nature a lot

First wave ...
Saga in
The Bridge;
right, more
recent drama
The Truth
Will Out



Nordic noir lets the light in at last

Scandinavian TV is moving on from murder. Continuing our look at European culture, **Ellen E Jones** finds its new obsessions are go-getting young girls, wartime Royals – and the Swedish origins of Spotify



Jumper noir ...
Sofie Gråbøl in
The Killing

Before 2011, it seemed inconceivable that the British could be gripped by subtitled TV drama, night after fraught night. Surely that was the stuff of arthouse cinema, not edge-of-the-seat primetime viewing. Then along came a trilogy of Scandinavian exports – The Killing, Borgen, The Bridge – and what was once niche entertainment became a nationwide obsession. Soon, a single item of clothing was getting more attention in the British media than most series get in their entire life: Sarah Lund, the detective at the heart of The Killing, was as relentless in her wearing of Faroe Isle jumpers as she was in her pursuit of the murderer at large in Copenhagen. Scandi noir had arrived in Britain, and the connections it tapped into went much deeper than knitwear.

According to Walter Iuzzolino, of Channel 4's foreign-language strand Walter Presents, these shows held up "a very interesting, distorted mirror" to the British soul. "Scandinavia has the same level of slightly gloomy, desaturated, rainy, cold, foggy, darkness," he says. "But it also has beautiful aspirational interiors. This pared-back Scandinavian look triggers something. It's almost us, but

not quite us. It's a version you like to spend time with because it's orderly."

But are we still spending as much time with our Scandi mirror-selves in 2020? It is true that lifestyle magazines have got over their craze for "hygge", a term meaning anything cosy, cuddly or convivial; and, yes, Ikea recently announced its first major UK store closure. However, Nordic noir still seems to be going from strength to strength. That 2011 invasion has now given way to a steady flow. If it's harder to name the big breakthrough Scandi shows these days, that is only because there are so many more contenders.

Sweden's latest export is The Truth Will Out, a gripping detective drama based on the true story of one of the country's most famous miscarriages of justice. In classic Nordic-noir style, it uses the fraught relationship between demoted murder detective Peter Wendel and his public prosecutor ex-wife to expose high-level governmental corruption. Already a smash hit in Sweden, The Truth Will Out has just appeared on Walter Presents. In terms of architecture, The Truth Will Out fully conforms to genre expectations, from the functional exteriors of looming government buildings to the cool uncluttered premises of flustered suspects. Indeed, architecture is so integral to the Scandinavian TV canon

that two of that founding trio were named after spectacular structures: the five-mile Öresund Bridge that connects Copenhagen in Denmark to Malmö in Sweden; and the Danish government's Christiansborg Palace, known informally as Borgen.

What's more, there is always a blanket of snow on The Truth Will Out's rural scenes, just as there is on otherwise disparate dramas such as Wisting (the Norwegian serial-killer series on BBC iPlayer), Fortitude (Sky Atlantic's English-language Arctic homage to the genre) and Iceland's Trapped (soon to air its third season).

Still, people, not places, continue to define the best Scandi TV. "When it comes to Nordic noir," says Mattias Bergqvist, chief TV critic of Swedish newspaper Expressen, "I'm convinced it all began with the Beck books by Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö, a wave of writing that continued with Henning Mankell's Wallander and reached its peak with Stieg Larsson. That tradition of having well-evolved characters has been important."

It's no coincidence, then, that the Danish producer behind the original screen adaptations of all these works, Søren Stærmo, is also the producer of The Truth Will Out, developed with Swedish crime writer Leif GW Persson. Stærmo credits his successes in part to the glimpses

I'm trying to bring in Nordic blue by showing cheerful colours – like the sky

he provides of Scandinavia's utopian – or apparently utopian – welfare society. "International audiences are curious about the cracks," he says.

Also, in possibly another echo with Britain, Sweden has long enjoyed an influence disproportionate to its size. "It's a small country economically," he says, "but it's a humanitarian big power. And now you have the Greta Thunberg effect – showing no one is too small to make a difference."

The UK office of Yellow Bird, Stærmo's production company, has just produced its first series for Netflix, Young Wallander, and it's working on another, about the rise of Swedish music streaming giant Spotify. It is a typical example of how Scandinavia's big public broadcasters are being joined by newer platforms and production houses, among them



Norway's Girls ...
Young and
Promising; right,
The Crown-like
Atlantic Crossing





Swedish streamers Viaplay. And there is no shortage of international buyers, eager to follow a TV trend with proven staying power.

As the Spotify project shows, the results are not all crime series, either. State-of-a-generation dramas include *Young and Promising* (Norway's answer to *Girls*) and the web series *Skam* (its answer to *Skins*), both of which have been very popular. Netflix cannily combined the two strands in *Quicksand*, a drama about a high-school shooting in an affluent Stockholm neighbourhood. Curiously, Scandinavian audiences typically like their period dramas British, but shows such as SVT's *Our Time Is Now* and DR's *State of Happiness* are changing that. The latter has been acquired by BBC Four.

Fans of *The Bridge*'s chief investigator Saga – who lives her life gloriously unaware of social norms, possibly because she has Asperger syndrome – will be pleased to hear that Sofia Helin, who plays the much-loved character, will be appearing as Princess Märtha in *Atlantic Crossing*, a drama about the Norwegian royals during the second world war with overtones of Netflix hit *The Crown*.

Even with bigger budgets, though, Scandinavia's relatively small industry is stretched. "It takes time to get experience," says Stærmoose. "To manage big budgets, complicated



long-term shoots, and work with wonderful, great egos." His great success has been in utilising this newfound spending power without losing the charm and craftsmanship of a cottage industry. Scandinavian drama has always had that enjoyable repertory theatre feel, with the same faces popping up again and again. Now the likes of Maria Sundbom (*The Bridge*, *Quicksand*, *The Truth Will Out*, *Before We Die*) and Søren Malling (*The Killing*, *Borgen*, *Dicte*, 1864, *The Investigation*) will be even busier. And there won't be many complaints about that.

This industry might not be the biggest, or best, in Europe – but what they do, they do to perfection, especially where those thrillers are concerned. "Scandi is unique in its ability to deliver a compellingly dark thriller," says Iuzzolino. "They've mastered that art better than anywhere else in the world."

Even the most successful exponents of Nordic noir, however, do sometimes chafe against the constraints of the genre. "If you think about the original French meaning of *noir*," says Stærmoose, "you associate it with cheerless lightning. But our lighting is not cheerless!" His latest show, *Thin Ice*, is a climate crisis thriller set among the melting ice caps of east Greenland. "I'm trying to introduce the subgenre Nordic blue, to show the cheerful colours of our snow, ice and the sky above us."

"Of course, corruption, greed, cheating and treachery take place in Scandinavia all the time. But [noir] doesn't reflect the humanity of our protagonists, or our interest in equality between the sexes, and the welfare state. To have a real democracy you have to attack the cracks in the judicial system and the crime genre is one way to do that, hopefully creating debates."

The *Truth Will Out* was the big talking point of 2018. This year, it is undoubtedly Caliphate, a thriller about Swedish Islamic terrorists. "It's not perfect, but it's a brave show taking on pressing questions," says Karolina Fjellborg, TV critic of Swedish newspaper *Aftonbladet*. She also recommends the dramedy *Bonus Family* and is not surprised by the appreciation of Scandinavian TV. "As a Swede who grew up watching all kinds of TV with subtitles, I've never understood English-speaking peoples' aversion to foreign-language shows. It was about time subtitles made a breakthrough."

Next year, meanwhile, perhaps the big show will be *The Investigation*, a drama about the murder of Swedish journalist Kim Wall in Copenhagen harbour. It is written and directed by *Borgen*'s Tobias Lindholm.

Whether or not any of these shows will grip the UK, the international influence of Scandinavian TV is abundantly clear. In under a decade, these shows have created a global TV grammar, with seemingly every other talked-about show of the last few years boasting a Scandi feel. *Black Mirror*? Nordic. *True Detective*? Nordic with a Cajun twist. *Succession*? So, so Nordic. For a region famed for its tolerance and peaceful neutrality, Scandi TV has managed global domination.



Ice cream and eco doom ... the 2019 winner

Vexations in Vilnius

This beach installation won Lithuania the top prize at the Venice Biennale. **Adrian Searle** visits the country's capital to immerse himself in the scene it sprang from

Holidaymakers lounge on an indoor beach, slathering one another in sunscreen. They play sudoku, fret and sing, while around them kids run among the supine pale bodies. There are ice creams, there is lassitude and threat. We catch the sunbathers' thoughts and anxieties in song, as the imminence of ecological doom grows ever closer.

This was Sun and Sea (Marina) at last year's Venice Biennale, which won Lithuania the international art show's prestigious Golden Lion. Word soon got round that this was the one thing in the biennale not to be missed.

Compelling and heartbreaking, Sun and Sea was first presented in Lithuania in 2017, in Vilnius's National Gallery of Art. Following Venice, the work is soon embarking on a global tour, taking in South Korea, Australia, Canada and Brazil, as well as London. So what do we know about the country and scene that produced such a world-beater?

The piece is the second collaboration between director Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, writer Vaiva Grainytė and artist and composer Lina Lapelytė. Their earlier work was *Have A Good Day!* – an opera starring 10 supermarket cashiers that has also been performed worldwide. The rampant success of their current production vexes its creators.

The links between visual art, theatre, literature and music are strong in this country that has a small and concentrated cultural scene. Its population is just under three million so the audience for contemporary art, I am repeatedly told, is limited – and not always appreciative. Everyone knows every artist and pretty much all the artists pass through the Vilnius Art Academy, which co-sponsored Sun and Sea. A lot of younger artists and performers seem to shuttle elsewhere, to study, take residencies and teach abroad. Almost everyone says they perform multiple roles: artists, curators, writers and much besides. They make their own scene, often in the most ad hoc ways.

Artist Anastasia Sosunova tells me there is virtually no commercial market here, and that artists work with a kind of "stubborn dilettantism". This certainly feels the case, but it is deceptive. Aside from artists, I am told, shows get few visitors and contemporary art is in any case not popular. There is among artists a sense of making do and getting by.

In the new Mo Museum it was still the 1990s,

with a large show devoted to the art and culture of the decade that saw Lithuania emerge from the USSR and regain its independence. Designed by Studio Libeskind, the museum is an agglomeration of Daniel Libeskind's signature angles and slanted windows. The floor of one gallery curls up unaccountably and uselessly, like the drying page of a sodden book. Even on a late winter afternoon of rain and empty streets, the museum was busy. Mo's approach is populist and accessible, a contrast to shows I see elsewhere.

Visiting the semi-wrecked Atletika Galeria, where a group show is being installed for an opening that night, I am astonished by the sense of abandonment, the crumbling walls covered in old graffiti, the piles of stuff everywhere, the beyond-the-last-minute haste, as often delicate works are installed amid the chaos. And then in one darkened space, the finishing touches are being made to Goda Palekaitė's complex pair of dioramas contrasting the life struggles and personal crises of French anthropologist, surrealist and thinker Michel Leiris, and 18th-century Swedish scientist and religious visionary Emanuel Swedenborg. Atletika is in a ruinous state, but is undergoing expansion with studios, workshops and even allotments – a ground-up alternative to the bureaucratic Soviet artists and photographers' unions that had exhibition spaces throughout Lithuania.

In the restaurant of another artist-run space, Autarkia, artist and curator Laura Kaminskaitė describes the organisation as "a sandbox". Everyone is experimenting, everywhere. Institutions help each other out, she says. They lend each other equipment, such as lights and screens, as well as offering help. But there must be jealousies and rivalries, I thought. What about when the sandbox turns into quicksand?

In his nearby studio, Julijonas Urbonas shows me his Euthanasia Coaster, detailing the swooping trajectory of a rollercoaster ride that would propel its occupant to an ecstatic death through lack of oxygen to the brain. That would work well in Venice, where Urbonas is about to take part in the Architecture Biennale.

Head With Many Thoughts, at the Contemporary Art Centre, is curated from a call that attracted more than 600 proposals. The highlight is a large-scale video titled *From Mother to Daughter*, a choreographed series of performances by eight real families from different backgrounds on the theme of generational chains and interdependence. The distinction between media seem unimportant, the barriers between performance, theatre, literature and art an opportunity rather than an obstacle. We could learn from that.



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Passionate ...
Emily Edmonds
and Johnny Herford



Opera Denis & Katya

★★★★☆

Riverfront theatre, Newport

Touring until 27 March

Romeo and Juliet crossed with Bonnie and Clyde: Denis Muravyov and Katya Vlasova were both innocent and transgressive. Music Theatre Wales's UK premiere of an opera based on the true story of two Russian 15-year-olds in the town of Strugi Krasnye, who over three days in 2016 livestreamed their own demise, is chilling. The standoff and police shootout was the stuff of tragedy.

Yet the manner of composer Philip Venables' and librettist/director Ted Huffman's telling of their tale is unusual. Neither Denis nor Katya is portrayed: instead events are plotted by two protagonists playing the roles of journalist, friend, neighbour, teenager, teacher and medic. Mezzo-soprano Emily Edmonds and baritone Johnny Herford, already much acclaimed in last year's Opera Philadelphia premiere, project these with objectivity and passion. Four cellists, one in each corner of the bare set, form a sort of Greek chorus.

A horrible immediacy comes from the fast intercutting technique of film or video applied to both libretto and score, whether witness testimony, spoken narrative or sung monologue. Words projected on the screen quote original livestream comments and trolling, as well as strategic reasoning in Venables' and Huffman's creative process and that of co-author/translator Ksenia Ravvina. Vindicating their argument that the piece would be stronger for not showing any of the actual streamed video, the final image of Strugi Krasnye is even more bleakly evocative.

When they realised they had gone too far, they asked in vain for their online viewers' advice. Given the present questions about the toxicity of social media, the opera's focus on the nature of voyeurism is particularly uncomfortable. So, too, is the unavoidable rider that society as a whole is complicit in such deaths.

Rian Evans



We are not amused ...
Yasmin Keita and
Miranda Heath

Theatre United Queendom

★★★★☆

Kensington Palace, London

Until 30 March

Don't tell Will and Kate, but Kensington Palace is a little bit disappointing. The palace itself is perfectly presentable; packed with austere portraits, vast tapestries, sumptuous ceilings and grand(ish) staircases. But this production in its courtrooms, presented by Les Enfants Terribles and Historic Royal Palaces, is a letdown. Les

Enfants Terribles are immersive theatre specialists but Queendom is anything but. It's all rather polite and tidy, peppered with potted bits of history that play out at a respectable distance. We are not entirely amused.

Director Christa Harris talks passionately in the programme notes about reclaiming lost female voices. Queendom, she explains, will paint King George II's wife, Queen Caroline, and his long-suffering mistress, Henrietta, in bold new colours and show them for the progressives they surely were. Costume designer Susan Kulkarni and hair, wigs and makeup designer Victoria Stride have had a damn good shot, adding flashes of neon colour and even the occasional fairy light to Caroline and Henrietta's regal costumes. But their story stays hidden in the shadows.

There's just one genuinely dramatic scene the whole night, in which co-writers Yassmin Abdel-Magied and Anthony Spargo imagine

a sparky encounter between the Queen (Miranda Heath, droll) and Henrietta (a mischievous Yasmin Keita), which sees the two women decide their fate together. The other encounters, though, lack impetus and are essentially augmented, and often fairly awkward, audio tours of the Georgian court.

In the gilded salon room, we learn that Queen Caroline once invited Isaac Newton to talk at the palace. In the bedchamber, we're encouraged to bow three times in front of King George II's empty throne. There are snatches of music throughout, composed by Patrick Neil Doyle, including some fairly dubious rap numbers. Designer Luke W Robson has created a striking corridor draped in letters and the audience are encouraged to explore their surroundings, but there's not that much to explore. The palace remains stubbornly itself. Clean. Sealed off. Unreachable as ever.

Miriam Gillinson

Comedy Kojo Anim

★★★★☆

Fairfields Hall, London

Touring until 20 March

Kojo Anim was a star of the black standup circuit for years, but "Britain's Got Talent changed my life", he tells his Croydon crowd. The Londoner has booked his Taxi Tour off the back of an appearance in last year's final, and recounts how that brush with fame - and his Christian faith and new fatherhood - picked him back up after a grim period in his life. The emotional honesty is refreshing, but plays only a cameo role in an otherwise unadventurous



Brought to
cartoonish life ...
Kojo Anim

show. Anim certainly does have talent, but - on this evidence - it's for performing, not for writing distinctive material.

The show opens with a justification for appearing on BGT, and an account of his experience of overnight celebrity. But it soon devolves into standard issue middle-aged standup, comparing his unglamorous childhood with

that of today's pampered youth. His parents play their expected role, giving their son broad accents to mimic when not walloping him for the slightest impertinence. "Only an African parent," reports our host ruefully, "will beat their own child when they see another child doing something."

This is all brought to cartoonish life by Anim, infectiously excited by childhood memories of McDonald's, agog at the slow singing in his Pentecostal church. He's a fine physical comic, too, whether popping with anger at being called home from football, or experiencing acute cramp while having sex. There's more first-base sex comedy - he chooses to end the gig on a lame ejaculation mime - and some unreflective male perspectives ("Guys, we've all done the same thing, innit?") on relationships and childbirth. For all Anim's talent, he's picking low-hanging fruit comedy-wise - and it doesn't taste particularly fresh.

Brian Logan



Convincing anguish ...
Penny Layden
and Judith Jacob

Theatre Seeds

★★★★☆

Leeds Playhouse

Touring until 11 April

Racism, as Mel Pennant's new play explores, does not come from nowhere. It is planted by society, its roots extending through soil nurtured by bigoted jokes and casual slurs. A xenophobic gag and a racist murder might not be comparable, but Pennant suggests that they lie on the same continuum.

Jackie (Penny Layden) angrily insists that the R-word, as she calls it, does not apply to her and her family. Turning up on the doorstep of Evelyn (Judith Jacob), whose teenage son Michael was brutally murdered 15 years ago to the day, Jackie begs her to let the past lie. Perhaps the attack wasn't racially motivated, she suggests. Perhaps it was just an accident.

There are distinct echoes of the murder of Stephen Lawrence in Pennant's plot: a black boy killed by a group of white lads, a bungled police investigation, perpetrators still not brought to justice. The focus here, though, is on the mothers who are left behind to deal with the aftershock - on both sides. In its stronger moments, Seeds pushes at the limits of maternal love, asking how far a mother would go to protect her son. But both script and production are awkwardly geared towards ratcheting up dramatic tension, sometimes at the expense of the real issues at hand.

Truth is revealed in ways that occasionally stretch plausibility, and Anastasia Osei-Kuffour's direction lays the suspense on thick. It feels clunkily contrived, draining urgency from the important questions Pennant is posing. The two actors radiate convincing emotional anguish, but the material pushes their characters to the edge of credibility. Towards the end, the notes of melodrama build into a crescendo, drowning out the play's complex considerations of racism in its various forms. Overblown tragedy eclipses the more insidious prejudice that can slowly sprout into violence.

Catherine Love



A cut above the holiday haze ...
Steve Coogan
and Rob Brydon

Review The Trip to Greece,
Sky One

The lads are back with more dinner-table banter to savour

★★★★☆

Rebecca
Nicholson



Scheduling The Trip to Greece to appear during the last dregs of a miserable, wet British winter is either an act of wanton cruelty or an escapist dream, depending on whether you're feeling unreasonably upbeat or not. It is now 10 years since Rob Brydon and Steve Coogan began their culinary road trips, and, having taken in the Lake District, Italy and Spain, this fourth instalment looks to be the last. During promotion for the fourth series of the show, Coogan pointed out that even the jokes about The Trip becoming repetitive are in danger of becoming repetitive.

If it is the last series, then it is bowing out with dignity and sticking to what it knows best, rather than setting fire to its legacy and sending Brydon and Coogan off on an 18-30 all-inclusive at the Ibiza Rocks hotel, though honestly, I would watch that, too. This time, the pair have been "commissioned by the Observer" to retrace the steps of Odysseus, so The Trip to Greece begins in Turkey, with Coogan doing a Partridge "A-ha!" in a Trojan horse. Fans of the series will know that is pretty much the extent of it. They eat delicious-looking food, spar with one another, and there's some serious location envy.

These cartoonish versions of Brydon (self-described as a "popular light entertainer", jovial and family-centred) and Coogan (who settles for "troubled TV funnyman", and is all dissatisfied ego) are familiar as they bicker and

do impressions over dinner, and it conveys sufficient intimacy that it feels like dropping in on old friends. The series begins with a double bill, and in this first episode, jokes about Aristotle's Poetics are jumbled in with a Wales v Manchester debate and a "watery custard" dessert that looks a lot like something else. The pair discuss the nature of imitation and whether playing a real person could be considered an impression (there is some lovely meta fun to be had in the fact that they are doing imitations of themselves) before delivering impressions of Tom Hardy, Stan Laurel, Ronnie Corbett and John Hurt in The Elephant Man.

For the most part, the banter takes the lead: Brydon reveals he once lost a part to Ray Winstone, and there is an extended riff on a cockney Henry VIII that it tickles me to recall, as does Brydon's reaction to an overly vigorous male masseur, an over-the-top response not seen since Monica allowed Phoebe to give her a massage in Friends. The pair stop off at the village where Mamma Mia! was filmed, which impresses a wide-eyed Brydon as much as it bores a cynical Coogan.

For all its familiar warmth, though, it is sharp enough to cut through the holiday haze. Brydon asks Coogan what he is most proud of. Brydon says he is most proud of his children. For Coogan, also a father, it is his seven Baftas. There are plenty of knowing references to Coogan's tabloid image, and a sad/funny point about the younger women he dates not sharing the same memories or references. The two run into a man who works with refugees on Lesbos, who knows Coogan from a film they made together, and they drop him off in their extravagant gifted car, on the way to their next luxurious meal. By episode two, real life, or the scripted version of it, has begun to intrude, as the hint of a plot drops in, and Coogan finds out his father is ill again.

Though only half an hour each, the episodes feel oddly timeless; you could have been watching for 10 minutes, or three hours. Partly, that is Michael Winterbottom's direction - unhurried, soothing and deeply satisfying. Whether you are watching them singing on a ferry, or picking up on Brydon's sly delight that exclamations of "A-ha!" follow Coogan everywhere he goes, you are simply right there in it, happily going along for the ride.

There are few better people through whom to enjoy a vicarious holiday. The food looks so good that you can almost imagine the taste of it, and if Secret Cinema can put on an interactive Stranger Things event, then perhaps they might consider trying The Trip, too, where you get to eat incredible food against beautiful backdrops, stay in gorgeous hotels and listen to two funny men gently needling each other for a few hours. There's the odd moment of overfamiliarity - a joke about a Bafta preview DVD felt a little industry-smug - but if this is to be the last of The Trips, then it is a beautiful note to end on.

Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist 10pm, Channel 4



Zoey (Jane Levy), an introverted coder, finds herself living in an endless musical montage - à la La La Land - after a catastrophic MRI scan leaves her able to hear people's thoughts in the form of glorious song. Levy is charmingly bewildered as Zoey, tuning into people's cries for help each week via the power of their private tunes. Up first is an outwardly joyful and successful colleague who, it turns out - through Gary Jules's Mad World - has a dark secret. Sweet and endearing.

Ammar Kalia

Tigers: Hunting the Traffickers 9pm, BBC Two

Aldo Kane, a former marine, goes on the hunt for illegal tiger poachers in south-east Asia in this confrontational special. Filming undercover, Kane pursues the trafficking ring operating throughout Laos, Thailand and Vietnam before presenting his shocking findings to UN officials in Geneva. **AK**

The Trouble With Maggie Cole 9pm, ITV

When Maggie Cole (Dawn French), the owner of a gift shop in Thurlbury and a local busybody, invites the entire town over to play them her radio interview about country life, she is horrified to discover that she has drunkenly stitched them up on air. Can they ever forgive her? A charmingly melancholy six-part drama. **Ali Catterall**

How to Look Good Naked 9pm, Really

Gok Wan returns for another outing of his body-positivity nudist show, nine years since it was last on air. Up first is Ames, a mum of three,

whose years spent putting her family first have led her to stop going out and start hating her body. Wan is on a mission to have her walk the catwalk in the nude - in front of a crowd. **AK**

100 Kilo Kids: Obesity SOS 9pm, Channel 4

Inside Britain's leading childhood obesity clinic at Bristol Royal hospital for children, a team of NHS specialists are busy tackling the serious health consequences of overeating in children as young as five. It is up to the viewers to weigh up the complicated mix of sociocultural factors that may also tip the scales. **Ellen E Jones**

Sandylands 10pm, Gold

Running across the next three nights, this larger-than-life comedy sees a struggling artist, Emily (Natalie Dew), return to the titular seaside town to deal with the death of her impresario dad (Sanjeev Bhaskar). Some raucous karaoke, a "carpet diem" tattoo and a juicy cliffhanger get things off to a decent start. **Graeme Virtue**



And another thing

I gave in and watched Love Is Blind. Top tip - watch the first three episodes and the finale and you've got all you need.

BBC One

6.0 **Breakfast 9.15** Britain's Housing Scandal **10.0** Homes Under the Hammer **11.0** Wanted Down Under **11.45** Saved on Camera **12.15** Bargain Hunt **1.0** News **1.30** Regional News **1.45** Doctors Rob and Karen have to deal with new developments in relation to Abz. **2.15** Jimmy McGovern's Moving On (3/5) **3.0** Escape to the Country (R) **3.45** Money for Nothing **4.30** Ready Steady Cook **5.15** Pointless (R) **6.0** News **6.30** Regional News **6.55** Party Political Broadcast (R) **7.0** The One Show

7.30 **Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup** Sheffield Wednesday v Manchester City (Kick-off 7.45pm) Gary Lineker presents all the action from the fifth-round tie at Hillsborough, with analysis from Alan Shearer and Micah Richards.

10.0 **News** (T) **10.25** **Regional News** (T) Weather and national lottery update. **10.35** **Eating With My Ex** (T) Daisha wants to know why Luchiano left in the middle of the night. **11.05** **Fight Dirty** (T) Two teams of housemates clean one anothers' homes. **11.35** **Killing Eve** (T) (R) (3 & 4/8) **1.05** **Weather** (T) **1.10** News (T)

BBC Two

6.30 **Money for Nothing** (R) **7.15** Ready Steady Cook (R) **8.0** See Hear **8.30** Great British Railway Journeys (R) **9.0** News **10.0** Victoria Derbyshire **11.0** Newsroom Live **11.15** Politics Live **1.0** Hardball (R) **1.45** Best House in Town (R) **2.30** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip (T) (R) **3.0** Red Rock (T) (R) **3.45** The Great Interior Design Challenge (T) (R) **4.45** Portillo's State Secrets (T) (R) **5.15** Flog It! (T) (R) **6.0** House of Games (T) **6.30** Great British Railway Journeys (T) (R) **7.0** Andrew Neil Show (T)

8.0 **Saving Lives at Sea** (T) (10/10) The Royal National Lifeboat Institution volunteers race to rescue two teenagers. **9.0** **Tigers: Hunting the Traffickers** (T) The illegal tiger trade in south-east Asia, with the big cats trafficked to make products including wine and glue.

10.0 **Live at the Apollo** (T) (R) Sarah Millican introduces Tom Allen and Arj Barker. **10.30** **Newsnight** (T) Weather **11.15** **Win the Wilderness: Alaska** (T) (R) The last two couples visit the empty property. **12.15** **Sign Zone** See Hear (T) (R) **12.45** Universal Credit... (T) (R) (2/3) **1.45** Hospital (T) (R) **2.45** This Is BBC Two (T)

ITV

6.0 **Good Morning Britain** (T) **9.0** Lorraine (T) **10.0** This Morning (T) **12.30** Loose Women (T) **1.30** News (T) **1.55** Local News (T) **2.0** Judge Rinder (T) **3.0** Tenable (T) (R) **3.59** Local News and Weather (T) **4.0** Tipping Point (T) **5.0** The Chase (T) **6.0** Local News (T) **6.25** Party Political Broadcast (T) **6.30** News (T) **7.0** Emmerdale (T) Marlon feels betrayed by the Dingles and Kim finds herself in deep water. **7.30** Coronation Street (T) Daniel resolves to prove his devotion to Bethany.

8.0 **Harry Redknapp's Sandbanks Summer** (T) **8.30** **Coronation Street** (T) The time has come for Bethany to leave Weatherfield. **9.0** **The Trouble With Maggie Cole** (T) (1/6) New comedy drama set in a sleepy seaside resort, with Dawn French, Julie Hesmondhalgh, Vicki Pepperdine and Mark Heap.

10.0 **News** (T) **10.30** **Local News** (T) **10.45** **Peston** (T) Political magazine show with Robert Peston. **11.40** **Britain Underwater: Fighting the Floods** (T) (R) A report from communities hit hard by recent storms. **12.30** **Ideal World 3.0** Broadcast (T) (R) **3.50** Nightscreen **5.05** Judge Rinder (T) (R)

Channel 4

6.30 **Cheers** (T) (R) **7.20** The King of Queens (T) (R) **8.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (T) (R) **9.10** Frasier (T) (R) **9.40** Frasier (T) (R) **10.10** Undercover Boss Canada (T) (R) **11.05** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (T) (R) **12.0** News (T) **12.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (T) (R) **1.05** Posh Pawn (T) (R) **2.10** Countdown (T) **3.0** A Place in the Sun (T) (R) **4.0** A New Life in the Sun: Where Are They Now? (T) **5.0** Come Dine With Me (T) (R) **6.0** The Simpsons (T) (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks (T) (R) **7.0** News (T)

8.0 **Kirstie and Phil's Love It Or List It** (T) (R) Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer meet a couple who live in Purley, Croydon. **9.0** **100 Kilo Kids: Obesity SOS** (T) Following young patients at the Bristol Royal hospital for children, Britain's leading childhood obesity clinic.

10.0 **Home** (T) Peter tries to hold the family together. **10.30** **Gogglebox** (T) (R) **11.35** **First Dates** (T) (R) An actor seeks his leading lady. **12.30** **The Windsors** (T) (R) **1.0** Kitchen Nightmares USA (T) (R) **1.50** My Family and the Galapagos (T) (R) **2.45** Come Dine With Me (T) (R) **3.40** Grand Designs (R)

Channel 5

6.0 **Milkshake!** **9.15** Jeremy Vine (T) **11.15** Paddington Station 24/7 (T) (R) **12.10** News (T) **12.15** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords (T) (R) **1.10** Access (T) **1.15** Home and Away (T) (R) **1.45** Neighbours (T) **2.15** **FILM** Secrets in a Small Town (Thomas Michael, 2019) (T) **4.0** Friends (T) (R) **4.30** Friends (T) (R) **5.0** News (T) **5.30** Neighbours (T) (R) **6.0** Home and Away (T) (R) **6.30** News (T) **7.0** Secrets of the Royal Palaces (T) (R) Behind-the-scenes tales of the monarchy's residences.

8.0 **Health Foods: Are They a Con?** (T) Paul Connolly and Jean Johansson lift the lid on health foods. **9.0** **Sarah Payne: Five Mistakes That Caught the Killer** (T) The murder of the eight-year-old who was killed by Roy Whiting in 2000, and the mistakes he made that led to him being arrested.

10.0 **The Chocolate Challenge With the Hairy Bikers** (T) **11.05** **Harvey Nichols: Britain's Poshest Department Store** (T) (R) How the chain epitomised the lifestyles of the rich and famous. **12.05** **The Woman Who Ate a House: Pica Syndrome** (T) (R) **1.0** Live Casino (T) **3.10** Hotel Inspector... (T) (R)

BBC Four

7.0 **Beyond 100 Days** (T) **7.30** The Yorkshire Dales (T) Paul Rose heads for Swaledale, joining farmers who look after rare upland hay meadows and meeting All Creatures Great and Small star Peter Davison.

8.0 **The Victorian House of Arts and Crafts** (T) A Victorian arts and crafts commune in the Welsh hills sees a group of modern crafters move in. **9.0** **A Very British History** (T) (4/4) Rachel Nguyen tells the story of the Vietnamese refugees who came to Britain in the 70s and 80s.

10.0 **The Stuarts** (T) (2/3) The impact of the wars of the Three Kingdoms. **11.0** **Blood and Gold: The Making of Spain** (T) (2/3) With Simon Sebag Montefiore. **12.0** **Treasures of Ancient Greece** (T) **1.0** Rhythms of India (T) **2.0** The Victorian House of Arts and Crafts (T) **3.0** A Very British History (T)

Other channels

Dave
6.0am Teleshopping **7.10** Cops UK: Bodycam Squad **8.0** American Pickers **9.0** Storage Hunters UK Double Bill **10.0** American Pickers Double Bill **12.0** Timber Kings **1.0** Top Gear **2.0** Cops UK **3.0** Sin City Motors **4.0** Top Gear Double Bill **6.0** Taskmaster **7.0** Room 101 Double Bill **8.20** Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You **9.20** QI **10.0** Hypothetical **11.0** Go 8 Bit **12.0** Taskmaster **1.0** Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You **2.15** Jon Richardson: Ultimate Worrier **3.0** Zapped **3.35** The Indestructibles **4.0** Teleshopping

E4
All programmes to 7pm are double bills **6.0am** Hollyoaks **7.0** How I Met Your Mother **8.0** Baby Daddy **9.0** Mike & Molly **10.0** Big Bang Theory **11.0** The Goldbergs **12.0** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.0** Big Bang Theory **2.0** Baby Daddy **3.0** Mike & Molly **4.0** The Goldbergs **5.0** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.0** Big Bang Theory **7.0** Hollyoaks **7.30** Man With a Plan **8.0** The Goldbergs **8.30** Schooled **9.0** Celebs Go Dating **10.0** Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist **11.0** Big Bang Theory Double Bill **12.0**

Brooklyn Nine-Nine Double Bill **1.0** Celebs Go Dating **2.05** First Dates Hotel **3.0** Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist **3.55** The Goldbergs **4.20** Schooled **4.45** Big Bang Theory Double Bill

Film4
11.0am **FILM** Death Drums Along the River (1963) **12.45** **FILM** The Gentle Sex (1943) **2.35** **FILM** The Tin Star (1957) **4.30** **FILM** Kidnapped (1971) **6.50** **FILM** Behind Enemy Lines (2001) **9.0** **FILM** Taken (2008) **10.50** **FILM** American Assassin (2017) **1.05** **FILM** Buffalo Soldiers (2001)

ITV2
6.0am Teleshopping **7.0** Ellen DeGeneres **7.50** Emmerdale **8.20** You've Been Framed! Gold: Full Throttle **9.20** Superstore Double Bill **10.15** Dinner Date **11.15** Dress to Impress **12.15** Emmerdale **12.45** Funniest Ever YBF! Gold **1.50** Ellen DeGeneres **2.45** Dinner Date **3.50** Dress to Impress **4.50** Take Me Out **6.0** You've Been Framed! Gold **6.30** YBF! Gold **7.0** YBF! Gold **7.30** YBF! Gold **8.0** Two and a Half Men Double Bill **9.0** Family Guy Double Bill **10.0** Celebrity

Juice **10.50** Family Guy **11.20** American Dad! Double Bill **12.20** Two and a Half Men Double Bill **1.15** Timewasters **1.45** Timewasters **2.15** CelebAbility **3.0** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.25** Nightscreen

More4
8.55am Handmade Treasures **9.15** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun/ Summer Sun **11.05** Emergency Helicopter Medics **12.10** 999: On the Front Line **1.15** Escape to the Chateau: DIY **2.15** Four in a Bed **2.50** Four in a Bed **3.20** Four in a Bed **4.25** Four in a Bed **4.55** The Supervet **5.55** Car SOS **6.55** Escape to the Chateau: DIY **8.0** Jon Snow's Very Hard Questions **9.0** The Great Pottery Throw Down **10.0** Jon Snow's Very Hard Questions **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E **12.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.15** The Great Pottery Throw Down **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E **3.20** Food Unwrapped

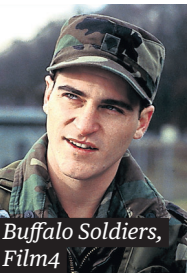
Sky One
6.0am Monkey Life Double Bill **7.0** RSPCA Animal Rescue Double Bill **8.0** The Dog Whisperer **9.0** Stop,

Search, Seize **10.0** Brit Cops: Law & Disorder **11.0** NCIS: LA Double Bill **1.0** Hawaii Five-0 Double Bill **1.15** MacGyver **4.0** Modern Family Double Bill **5.0** Simpsons **5.30** Futurama Double Bill **6.30** Simpsons **7.0** Simpsons **7.30** Simpsons **8.0** Simpsons **8.30** Simpsons **9.0** SEAL Team **10.0** Avenue 5 **10.35** Intelligence Double Bill **11.35** The Russell Howard Hour **12.35** The Heist **1.35** Caught on Dashcam **2.30** The Force: Manchester **3.30** Road Wars **4.0** Stop, Search, Seize **5.0** Futurama Double Bill

Sky Arts
6.0am Prokofiev: Ivan the Terrible **6.45** Andrea Bocelli: Love in Portofino **8.30** Watercolour Challenge **9.0** South Bank Show Originals **9.30** Auction **10.0** Tales of the Unexpected Double Bill **11.0** Discovering: Jon Voight/ Dustin Hoffman **1.0** South Bank Show Originals **1.30** Watercolour Challenge **2.0** Callas, Kennedy, Onassis: Two Queens for a King **4.0** Tales of the Unexpected Double Bill **5.0** Discovering: Julia Roberts/Richard Gere **7.0** Portrait Artist of the Year **8.0** Passions

9.0 Norman Lear: Just Another Version of You **11.0** The Directors **12.0** David Bowie: Serious Moonlight **1.55** More Than This: The Story of Roxy Music **2.55** Off Camera **4.10** Discovering: Roberts/Gere

Sky Atlantic
6.0am The Guest Wing **7.0** Without a Trace **8.0** Without a Trace **9.0** Without a Trace **10.0** The West Wing Double Bill **12.0** Blue Bloods **1.0** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation **2.0** The West Wing Double Bill **4.0** Without a Trace **5.0** Without a Trace **6.0** Without a Trace **7.0** CSI... **8.0** Blue Bloods **9.0** Angels in America Double Bill **12.0** The End **12.35** Babylon Berlin **1.45** John Adams **3.25** Californication **4.0** The West Wing Double Bill



Radio

Radio 3
6.30 Breakfast **9.0** Essential Classics **12.0** Composer of the Week: Price (3/5) **1.0** Lunchtime Concert. Anne Queffélec focuses on the solo piano works of Mozart. (R) (2/3) **2.0** Afternoon Concert. The BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Maida Vale Studios perform works by Strauss, Sibelius and Ustvolskaya. **3.30** Choral Evensong: The Queen's College, Oxford **4.30** New Generation Artists. Ruby Hughes and Catriona Morison in vocal music by three female composers. **5.0** In Tune. Katie Derham is joined by the Bukolika Piano Trio, who play live in the studio. **7.0** In Tune Mixtape **7.30** In Concert. Live from the Barbican, London. Beethoven: Missa Solemnis in D Op 123. Elizabeth Llewellyn (soprano), Christine Rice (mezzo-soprano), Thomas Atkins (tenor), Brindley Sherratt (bass), BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Richard Farnes. **10.0** Free Thinking: Maths and Philosophy Puzzles. Shahidha Bari looks at the work of Frank Ramsey. **10.45** The Essay: Women Writers to Put Back on the Bookshelf - Margaret

Oliphant. With Clare Walker Gore. (3/5) **11.0** Night Tracks **12.30** Through the Night
Radio 4
6.0 Today **8.31** (LW) Yesterday in Parliament **9.0** Only Artists **9.30** Rutherford & Fry: A Cold Case, Part Two (5/6) **9.45** (LW) Daily Service **9.45** (FM) Book of the Week: Guest House for Young Widows, by Azadeh Moaveni. (3/5) **10.0** Woman's Hour. 10.41 The Leopard, by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa. (3/10) **11.0** Class Talk (R) **11.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar: Rage and Resentment (R) (3/4) **12.01** (LW) Shipping Forecast **12.04** Apeirogon. By Colum McCann. (8/10) **12.18** You and Yours **1.0** The World at One **1.45** The Californian Century: San Francisco Burning (8/10) **2.0** The Archers (R) **2.15** Drama: Two Households, by Claire McGowan. **3.0** Money Box Live **3.30** Inside Health (R) **4.0** Thinking Allowed **4.30** The Media Show **5.0** PM **5.54** (LW) Shipping Forecast **6.0** News **6.30** Mark Watson Talks a Bit About Life (1/4) **7.0** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **7.45** The Book of Strange New Things. By

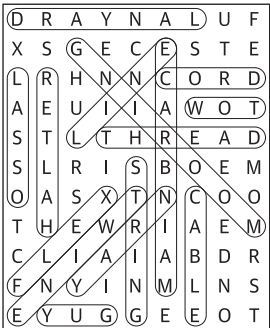
Michael Faber. (R) (3/10) **8.0** The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk is joined by guests for combative debate. (5/8) **8.45** Lent Talks. The Anglican priest Rachel Mann reflects on the events leading up to Jesus's crucifixion and on her journey of identity as a trans woman. (1/6) **9.0** Costing the Earth: Mark Ruffalo v Chemical Pollution (R) **9.30** Only Artists (R) **10.0** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Apeirogon (R) **11.0** Ken Cheng: Chinese Comedian (3/4) **11.15** Cracking Up: Revision Express (R) **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.0** News **12.30** Book of the Week (3/5) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.0** As World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45** Farming Today **5.58** Tweet of the Day (R)

Radio 4 Extra
6.0 Deep Six (4/6) **6.30** Gurinder: The Indian Sequel **7.0** The Change (6/6) **7.30** Alex Edelman's Peer Group (4/4) **8.0** Hancock's Half Hour (5/20) **8.30** One Foot in the Grave (4/4) **9.0** Listomania (3/6) **9.30** Such Rotten Luck (6/6) **10.0** Sons and Lovers (3/3) **10.55**

Writing Yorkshire (3/3) **12.0** Hancock **12.30** One Foot in... **1.0** Deep Six (4/6) **1.30** Gurinder... **2.0** The Rainbow (3/10) **2.15** Just So Science (3/5) **2.30** A Severed Head (3/5) **2.45** The Weather Experiment (3/5) **3.0** Sons and... **4.0** Listomania (3/6) **4.30** Such Rotten Luck (6/6) **5.0** Alex Edelman **6.0** The Invisible Man (8/10) **6.15** Beyond Black (8/10) **6.30** The Palace of Laughter (2/3) **7.0** Hancock **7.30** One Foot in... **8.0** Deep Six (4/6) **8.30** Gurinder... **9.0** Writing Yorkshire (3/3) **10.0** Alex Edelman **10.30** Mark Watson Makes the World Substantially Better (6/6) **11.0** Will Smith Presents the Tao of Bergerac (2/4) **11.30** The Sofa of Time (1/6) **12.0** The Invisible Man (8/10) **12.15** Beyond Black (8/10) **12.30** The Palace of Laughter (2/3) **1.0** Deep Six (4/6) **1.30** Gurinder... **2.0** The Rainbow (3/10) **2.15** Just So Science (3/5) **2.30** A Severed Head (3/5) **2.45** The Weather Experiment (3/5) **3.0** Sons and... **4.0** Listomania (3/6) **4.30** Such Rotten Luck (6/6) **5.0** The Change (6/6) **5.30** Alex Edelman

Yesterday's solutions

Wordsearch



Solution no 15,544



Sudoku no 4,732

7	9	6	4	5	8	3	1	2
8	2	4	7	3	1	5	6	9
1	5	3	6	2	9	8	7	4
3	8	9	2	1	5	7	4	6
6	1	7	8	4	3	2	9	5
5	4	2	9	7	6	1	3	8
4	7	8	3	9	2	6	5	1
9	6	1	5	8	7	4	2	3
2	3	5	1	6	4	9	8	7

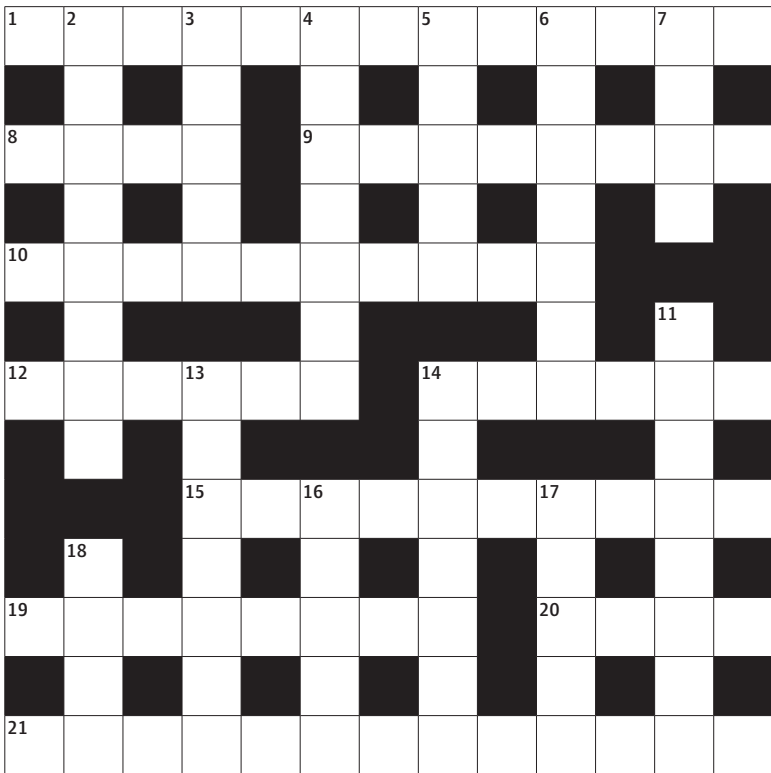
Word wheel
UNCLASPED

Suguru

2	1	4	1	4	2
4	5	3	2	3	1
3	2	1	4	5	4
1	4	5	2	1	3
2	3	1	3	4	2
1	5	2	5	1	3

Quick crossword no 15,545

- Across
- 1 One who creates dance routines (13)
- 8 Paint crudely (4)
- 9 A poisonous halogen gas (8)
- 10 Child's game played with string (4,6)
- 12 Savvy (6)
- 14 Kick the football between an opponent's legs (6)
- 15 Slandorous (10)
- 19 Railway passenger coach (8)
- 20 Fashion (4)
- 21 No longer of the slightest use (2,4,2,1,4)
- Down
- 2 Indian chieftain, subject of a Longfellow poem (8)
- 3 Pictorial teaser (5)
- 4 Made available (7)
- 5 Circular (5)
- 6 Flawless (7)
- 7 Fish-eating eagle (4)
- 11 Lowered in quality (8)
- 13 Sanction - red nose (anag) (7)
- 14 Old Testament book - narcotics? (7)
- 16 Fiddle (5)
- 17 Nervous (5)
- 18 Hangs back (4)



Stuck? For help call 0906 200 83 83. Calls cost £1.10 per minute, plus your phone company's access charge. Service supplied by ATS. Call 0330 333 6946 for customer service (charged at standard rate). To buy puzzle books, visit guardianbookshop.com or call 0330 333 6846.

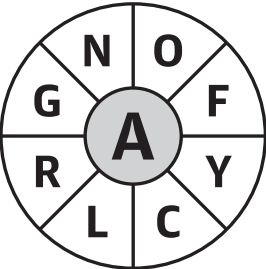
Sudoku no 4,733

Medium. Fill the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9. Printable version at theguardian.com/sudoku

							4	
				8	9			
5						6	9	7
		7		9	8			6
9	5		1		2		7	3
1			6	3		5		
8	2	5						4
			8	1				
	9							

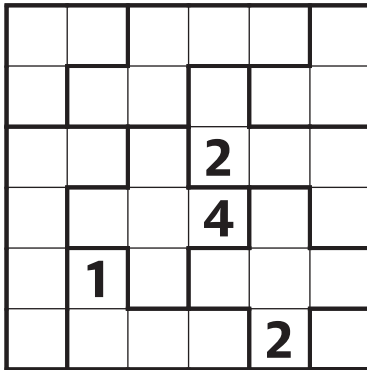
Word wheel

Find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the central letter and at least two others. Letters may be used only once. You may not use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found. TARGET: Excellent-75. Good-68. Average-59.



Suguru

Fill the grid so that each square in an outlined block contains a digit. A block of two squares contains the digits 1 and 2, a block of three squares contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. No same digit should appear in neighbouring squares, not even diagonally.



Wordsearch

Can you find 13 items of neckwear in the grid? Words can run forwards, backwards, vertically or diagonally, but always in a straight, unbroken line.



Steve Bell
If...



Pet corner

Which actor has two poodles called Button and Barney?
a. Jenny Agutter
b. Julie Andrews
c. Joan Collins
d. Diana Rigg
Answer top right



The biggest Home Office scandal is still Windrush *Amelia Gentleman, page 3*

Johnson can't bluster away the hard facts of Brexit *Rafael Behr, page 4*

My ministerial job in Austria has come at a price *Europe now, page 10*

G2
Daily
pullout
life &
arts
section
Inside

The Guardian **Wednesday 4 March 2020**

Opinion
and ideas

Journal



Fossil power projects must be abandoned. If not, we'll sue

**George
Monbiot**



No longer should our survival be an afterthought. If we are to withstand the climate crisis, every decision should begin with the question of what the planet can endure. This means that any discussion about new infrastructure should begin with ecological constraints.

The figures are stark. A paper published in *Nature* last year showed that existing energy infrastructure, if it is allowed to run to the end of its natural life, will produce around 660 gigatonnes of CO₂. Yet, to stand a reasonable chance of preventing more than 1.5°C of global heating, we can afford to release no more than 580 gigatonnes.

In other words, far from building new fossil power plants, the survival of a habitable planet means retiring the damaging projects that have already been built. Electricity plants burning coal and gas and oil will not secure our prosperity. They will destroy it.

But everywhere special interests dominate. Construction projects are driven, above all, by the lobbying of the construction industry, consultancies and financiers. Gigantic and destructive schemes, such as the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway, are invented by lobbyists for the purpose of generating contracts.

Political support is drummed up, and the project achieves its own momentum; then, belatedly, a feeble attempt is made to demonstrate that it can somehow become compatible with environmental promises. This is what destroys civilisations: a mismatch between the greed of economic elites and the needs of society.

But last week something momentous happened. The decision to build a scheme with vast financial backing and terrible environmental impacts was struck down by the court of appeal. The judges decided that government policy, on which planning permission for a third runway at Heathrow was based, had failed to take account of the UK's climate commitments, and was therefore unlawful. This is - or should be - the end of business as usual.

The Heathrow decision stands as a massive and crucial precedent. Now we must use it to insist that governments everywhere put our survival first, and the demands of corporate lobbyists last. To this end, with the Good Law Project and Dale Vince, the founder of Ecotricity, I'm pursuing a similar claim. In this case, we are challenging the UK government's policy for approving new energy projects.

On Tuesday, we delivered a "letter before action" to the Treasury solicitor. We've given the government 21 days to

*Drax power
station, near
Selby, North
Yorkshire*

PHOTOGRAPH:
JOHN GILES/PA



2

Fossil power projects must be abandoned. If not, we'll sue

George Monbiot

← Continued from front

 accept our case and change its policy to reflect the climate commitments agreed by parliament. If it fails to do so, we shall issue proceedings in the high court to have the policy declared unlawful. We'll need money, so we've launched a crowdfunding appeal to finance the action.

It's hard to see how the government could resist our case. The Heathrow judgment hung on the government's national policy statement on airports. This, the judges found, had not been updated to take account of the Paris climate agreement. New fossil fuel plants, such as the gas burners at Drax in Yorkshire approved last October, are enabled by something very similar: the national policy statements on energy infrastructure. These have not been updated since they were published in 2011. As a result, they take no account of the Paris agreement, of the government's new climate target (net zero by 2050, as opposed to an 80% cut) or of parliament's declaration of a climate emergency.

The main policy statement says that the EU Emissions Trading System "forms the cornerstone of UK action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector". As we have left the EU, this obviously no longer holds. The planning act obliges the government to review its national policy statements when circumstances change. It has failed to do so. It is disregarding its own laws.

Once a national policy statement has been published, there is little objectors can do to prevent damaging projects from going ahead, as the statements create a presumption in favour of new fossil fuel plants. In approving the Drax plant, Andrea Leadsom, the secretary of state for business and energy at the time, insisted that the policy statement came first, regardless of the climate impacts. Catastrophic decisions like this will continue to be made until the statements change.

hile we are challenging the government's energy policies, another group - the Transport Action Network - is about to challenge its road-building schemes on the same basis. It points out that the national policy statement on road networks is also outdated and incompatible with the UK's climate commitments. The policy statement, astonishingly, insists that "any increase in carbon emissions is not a reason to refuse development consent", unless the increase is so great that the road would prevent the government from meeting its national targets. No single road project can be disqualified on these grounds. But the cumulative effect of new road-building ensures that the UK will inevitably bust its carbon targets. While carbon emissions are officially disregarded, minuscule time savings on travel are used to justify massive and damaging projects.

Transport emissions have been rising for the past five years, partly because of road-building. The government tries to justify its schemes by claiming that cars will use less fossil fuel. But because they are becoming bigger and heavier, new cars sold in the UK now produce more carbon dioxide per kilometre than older models.

The perverse and outdated national policy statement locks into place such damaging projects as the A303 works around Stonehenge, the A27 Arundel scheme, the Lower Thames crossing, the Port of Liverpool access road, the Silvertown tunnel in London and the Wensum link road in Norfolk. A government seeking to protect the lives of current and future generations would immediately strike down the policy that supports these projects, and replace it with one that emphasised walking, cycling and public transport.

A third action has been launched by Chris Packham and the law firm Leigh Day, challenging HS2 on similar grounds. Its carbon emissions were not properly taken into account, and its environmental impacts were assessed before the Paris agreement.

Already, the Heathrow decision is resonating around the world. Now we need to drive its implications home, by suing for survival. If we can oblige governments to resist the demands of corporate lobbyists and put life before profit, humanity might just stand a chance.

The Guardian

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'Comment is free... but facts are sacred' CP Scott

Coronavirus

The crisis is real and will show us what kind of government we truly have

As Covid-19 has spread, to more than 70 countries already, people are learning not only about the new coronavirus, but about their governments' ability to respond to it. In many countries, from China to South Korea and Iran, anger at the shortcomings is widely held and deeply felt. With a low but fast-growing tally of 51 cases in the UK, the British government, none too soon, has published its action plan.

This is a government that believes in providing opportunities rather than a safety net; it seems reluctant to employ the powers of the state to shield or protect. Nor does it want to take the blame for problems. One might have been forgiven for thinking that Boris Johnson had self-isolated, given how little we have seen of him recently. The public has already taken matters into its own hands, with consumers stockpiling canned goods and hand sanitiser. But this is not the kind of situation that can be managed without the state, and Mr Johnson, too, can see the political perils of simply disappearing from the scene.

The Cobra emergency meeting, and yesterday's briefing on the measures that could be taken, were welcome. Strikingly, the prime minister was flanked by the chief medical officer and chief scientific adviser as he spoke. On the same morning, Mark Carney, the Bank of England's governor, said it would take all steps needed to support the economy and financial system from what he described as a large, but temporary, shock.

The public does not always believe politicians, and Mr Johnson has done too much to fuel that cynicism. Experts and institutions have their uses. The proposals, based on longstanding pandemic planning, appear to be largely measured and proportionate. In the first phase, the aim is to contain the disease, not least to buy time to improve preparedness - critical, given warnings that

the NHS is not yet ready for the crisis; in the second, it is to delay its spread; in the last, it is to mitigate its impact. Research into the virus, potential treatments and vaccines will run alongside.

The government has stressed that while many people may fall ill, a very low proportion will die. At the same time, it notes that up to four-fifths of the population could be infected, with a fifth of the workforce taken ill at any one time, and that an outbreak could last for months. In the extreme scenario, former medical staff could be brought out of retirement, and police and fire services might attend only the most serious incidents. The army could be called in if civilian authorities could not cope, and schools might close.

The need to control the disease must be balanced against the resulting social and economic disruption, and overreacting at this stage could mean people tire too quickly of measures and abandon them when they are most needed. At the same time, the wisdom of allowing large-scale gatherings with tens of thousands of participants to go ahead - while others have banned events with more than a few thousand - must remain in question. The childishness that led to the government boycotting the BBC's Today programme, even when the need to keep the public well informed is paramount, has thankfully been shelved for now; Matt Hancock, the health secretary, appeared to discuss the government plans.

Much more still needs to be done. The British Medical Association has called for the urgent distribution of personal protective equipment such as masks to GP surgeries. Other issues show the repercussions of Conservative policies over the last decade. Urgent measures are needed to help workers in the gig economy, who face a choice between going to work while possibly sick or waiting up to five weeks to obtain universal credit. And austerity has seen dramatic cuts in some of the very sectors now needed to carry out these plans: the number of health visitors, district and school nurses and local council staff have all fallen sharply. These are not the kinds of issues this government wants to address. But the UK's ability to withstand this crisis, and future challenges, may depend on its willingness to do so.

Malaysia

A king overturns an election that promised hope. This is a disgrace

In a world where rulers with authoritarian and nationalist instincts have been steadily curbing political freedoms, the election of a multiracial reformist coalition in Malaysia two years ago was a heartening victory for democracy. Voters in 2018 threw out the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), which had run Malaysia for 61 years and had, under prime minister Najib Razak, become a venal operation that stayed in power by stirring communal tensions and locking up critics. Unfortunately, UMNO is now on the brink of returning to office thanks to a royal coup enabled by hubris and infighting.

At the heart of the story is the distrust between Mahathir Mohamad, the 94-year-old founding father of modern Malaysia, and his political rival and presumed successor, Anwar Ibrahim. These were the dominant figures of the Pakatan Harapan, the unwieldy coalition that had won the shock electoral victory in 2018. They fell out during a power struggle 20 years ago when Dr Mahathir was prime minister and Mr Anwar his deputy. That episode ended badly for Mr Anwar who went to prison on trumped-up sodomy charges, when his only offence was being charismatic and intelligent. Yet by 2018 they were reunited as political allies and defeated a kleptocratic government.

Mr Mahathir became prime minister and Mr Anwar returned to parliament.

The doubts and suspicions between the two men saw them struggle to introduce reforms and the economy spluttered. Old power brokers remained in place, biding their time until there was an opportunity to strike. That moment arose last month, when Dr Mahathir seemed to think he was being undermined and abruptly resigned. Yet the threat within was not from Mr Anwar, but rather Dr Mahathir's deputy, Muhyiddin Yassin, who decided to walk out on his boss and leave the ruling coalition. Dr Mahathir had badly miscalculated in believing only he could hold the government together and would thereby be reappointed by the king, or Agong. In the event, the monarch passed over Dr Mahathir and decided to appoint the newly independent Mr Muhyiddin as prime minister, citing his ability to command a parliamentary majority.

UMNO is the biggest party in Mr Muhyiddin's putative coalition. There are well-grounded fears that if Mr Muhyiddin ends up in charge Mr Najib will pull the strings. This is at a time when Mr Najib is on trial for corruption charges and his aim will be to get off the hook. Mr Muhyiddin ought to be forced to test his claim of a majority. If he does not then Dr Mahathir and Mr Anwar, who say they have the 112 votes needed for a majority, must be given a chance to form the government. The mood music suggests the Agong could instead prorogue parliament - or even dissolve it and call fresh elections. This would be a mistake, creating a vacuum for nationalist or religious demagogues to fill. A king has overturned a democratic election result that challenged a corrupt old order. This is wrong and the world ought to call it out.



BBC NEWS BREAKING

Home Office boss resigns

The biggest scandal is Windrush - not bullying claims

Amelia Gentleman



There is something troubling about the resignation statement Sir Philip Rutnam made to camera last Saturday. The mournful, three-minute speech was delivered in the rain, a disembodied arm holding an umbrella above his head. “I have been the target of a vicious and orchestrated briefing campaign,” he announced, looking as visibly distressed as it is possible for a career civil servant to be. “My experience has been extreme.” Colleagues had complained that the home secretary, Priti Patel, was shouting and swearing at them, “behaviour that created fear, and needed some bravery to call out”. She has denied allegations of bullying.

Further details have emerged, and it is easy to view Rutnam’s resignation as an honourable gesture. And yet his decision to choose this moment to make a principled stand is very revealing. Set against his department’s recent dismal record, the sacrifice of his 33-year career in response to a minister’s bullying behaviour feels problematic.

When Theresa May finally, belatedly, apologised in April 2018 for the Windrush scandal, Rutnam had been in his post as permanent secretary to the Home Office for a year. He was the most senior civil servant in a department that had been extremely slow to react to the emerging evidence that thousands of people who were living entirely legally in the UK had been wrongly classified by his own department as illegal immigrants, with catastrophic consequences.

In this context, Rutnam’s description of his experience at the hands of his boss as “extreme” seems a little thin-skinned. Being belittled and sworn at in the office must be an unpleasant experience, but it seems trifling compared with the experiences of people such as Sylvester Marshall, who was told to pay £54,000 for cancer treatment or do without it (despite having lived in London legally since he was a teenager, and paying taxes for decades); or Joycelyn John, a former employee at the Ritz, who was told she had no right to be in the UK (despite having lived here legally since 1963), and who was put on a plane to a country she had left aged four.

Of course no one expects a civil servant to resign every time their department messes up. But it is the responsibility of the permanent secretary to make

Sir Philip Rutnam making his resignation speech
PHOTOGRAPH: BBC

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Amelia Gentleman
is a Guardian reporter and author of *The Windrush Betrayal: Exposing the Hostile Environment*

Asked to explain why so many people had been so horrifically affected by his legislation, he said he didn’t know

sure the ministry responds swiftly to problems. For months, when I was repeatedly calling the department to highlight how people were being mistakenly sacked, denied benefits or held in immigration detention, officials took no discernible action.

Civil servants are institutionally detached from the lives of the people affected by the policies they are implementing, and much more preoccupied by the moods of colleagues and the ministers they serve. If there was bullying of his colleagues, Rutnam will have observed it first hand, while his Whitehall existence will have insulated him from the experiences of those struggling to extract themselves from the government’s hostile environment.

The Home Office is such an opaque institution that we still don’t know what was happening inside the department in the months before the scandal broke. But at the very least, Rutnam displayed an unforgivable lack of curiosity about the effects of its policies. At a select committee hearing in December 2018, Rutnam listened to Vernon Vanriel, 64 (a boxer who had lived in London since arriving as a six-year-old in 1962), who was left destitute in Jamaica for years when the Home Office ruled he had no right to return home after a visit.

Asked to explain why so many people had, like Vanriel, been so horrifically and unfairly affected by the tightening immigration legislation, he said he didn’t know. His conclusion felt remarkably casual: “I think probably that people’s minds were elsewhere.” He didn’t reflect on why that was - leaving us to assume that their minds were elsewhere because those affected were a marginalised group of elderly black people, whom officials found it easy to ignore.

Was the Home Office institutionally racist? Very probably, but we are still waiting for the official verdict on what went wrong. The independent lessons-learned review, commissioned soon after the government’s first apologies, has still not been published. Most of those who bore responsibility - David Cameron (with his push to cut net migration to the tens of thousands), former home secretaries Theresa May and Amber Rudd - have moved on. The ex-director general of the Home Office Glyn Williams has been knighted, while other senior civil servants have been shunted sideways into other posts. They, like Rutnam, will feel relieved to be out of the department when the report is finally released.

It is almost two years since the government acknowledged that its own policies caused horrendous suffering, but the Home Office compensation scheme has distributed just £62,198 between 36 people. The hostile environment legislation remains in place.

Rutnam was able to summon the BBC to tell them that he is considering legal action against his employers. He is lucky to be able to afford that luxury, since legal aid for most employment cases has been cut by the government, just as it has for immigration cases - as those affected discovered when they tried to consult lawyers to extract themselves from the claws of immigration enforcement teams. They struggled to get the BBC to pay attention to their difficulties. It is unlikely that victims of the Home Office’s own vicious and orchestrated campaign will have much time for Rutnam’s complaints about workplace bullying.

Boris Johnson can't bluster away the hard facts of Brexit

Rafael Behr



Bad ideas blunt the sharpest minds, and Boris Johnson's intellect was hardly an instrument of surgical precision before it rubbed up against a hard Brexit. The prime minister is no fool, but his talents are ill-suited to crafting a new relationship with the EU. Johnson's cleverness is rhetorical; his unique talent is for lifting spirits while lowering expectations. His upbeat bombast is laced with self-deprecation conveyed in his artfully tousled appearance.

The whole act is a wink inviting the audience in on a joke, the butt of which are "doomsters and gloomsters" who try to hold Johnson to his word. He persuades his fans to take their satisfaction purely from the experience of being persuaded. To be seduced by him is to forgive him in advance for underachieving.

The EU is unsusceptible to that charm. The negotiations that began in Brussels this week will codify legal obligations across multiple issues, and Johnson's inflated verbiage is not a meaningful currency in that commerce. It can be an impediment to progress when it undermines trust. Continental leaders take note when the prime minister tells manufacturers that they will encounter "no forms, no checks, no barriers of any kind" for the transit of goods between Northern Ireland and mainland Britain.



Boris Johnson speaking about EU negotiations in London last month. PHOTOGRAPH: WPA/GETTY IMAGES

The truth is that Northern Ireland will end up in a different regulatory space to the rest of the UK. That was a concession Johnson made last year to allow the UK to jettison EU rules without reimposing a combustible border on the island of Ireland.

In a recent speech Johnson's chief negotiator, David Frost, set out a fundamentalist line on deviation from continental rules. The capacity to do so, he argued, was the essence of "independence" and "the point of Brexit". When that ethos is pursued in practice, forms, checks and some kind of barrier to invigilate the boundary between EU and British jurisdictions are inevitable. A border in the Irish Sea is not a matter of conjecture. It is described in a treaty that Johnson signed and waved in triumph. He likes deals for their instant retail value in domestic politics, believing that problems in the small print can be blustered away. That is not how the trade negotiations work in Brussels, where the deal is the small print.

Johnson's cavalier disregard for the facts of Brexit is where his character and Eurosceptic ideology are fused. It flows from the arrogant cultural assumption that Britain is pursuing its manifest destiny away from Europe, and that Brussels fails to see things in their true, epic perspective. That argument was the core of Frost's speech, which was Johnsonian in the way it camouflaged flabby thinking in historical dress.

Smuggled between references to Edmund Burke and Charles de Gaulle were some strange ideas. The Johnson-Frost doctrine rejects the Treasury view that disrupting trade between neighbours makes them poorer. Costs are outweighed by "other factors" intrinsic to the "complex and adaptive" nature of the modern economy, which in its unfathomable genius generates responses "we do not foresee" and "solutions we did not expect". This hints at the view, championed in Downing Street by Dominic Cummings, that fretting about EU markets is for analogue scaredy cats who care too much about gravity and not enough about the weightless digital future. Farmers bleat about borders, but the 21st century belongs to countries that master artificial intelligence.

The thesis is immune to evidence and too nebulous to be disproved in the time available for Brexit negotiations. It allows believers to write off any short-term disruption against notional gains down the line. If the prime minister believes this stuff - if he prefers pristine sovereignty in a hypothetical economy to defence of the real one - he has little incentive to compromise. And if compromise feels embarrassing, he might prefer to obstruct talks and blame EU intransigence when they collapse.

There is a less pessimistic view: Johnson's priority with Brexit since the election has been to keep it out of the news. (He promised voters he could make it go away, and he wants that illusion to be complete. To that end, he needs any deal.) He will be relaxed with compromise because he thinks he can spin base metal into gold. Most Tory MPs will not sweat over the detail, and the 80-seat majority is a cushion against any rebels who do.

Downing Street also expects to force concessions out of Brussels through brinkmanship, spooking the EU by threatening to walk away. In the authorised Tory version of history, that is what happened last year. Theresa May had a bad deal because she was afraid of no deal; Johnson wasn't, so he got a better one. In reality, Johnson's first offer of revised terms for Northern Ireland was laughed out of Brussels so he defaulted to a model that he had previously rejected.

It is not the prime minister's style to admit retreat, so he now speaks of the withdrawal agreement in fictionalised terms, free from costs or Irish borders, as if it is the deal he wanted and not the one he got. This is the Johnson method: sign anything, then sell it as everything; make any economic sacrifice on the altar of wishful thinking; compromise for a deal then disown the downside. That last tenet is infuriating for the EU side, which needs to know that Britain after Brexit is still a country that honours treaties. It cannot afford to be the rogue kind that doesn't, but Johnson seems to think he can afford the political luxury of refusing to care.

Self-isolation is a luxury most UK workers can ill afford

Aidan Harper



Coronavirus isn't just a disease - it's a test of the systems that are part of our everyday lives. In the recent guidance it released to the public, the government said it would encourage self-isolation as the primary way to contain the spread of the virus. Yet for many of the low-paid workers in Britain who look after your parents, deliver your food or drive your Uber, self-isolation means forgoing wages in order to protect others from disease.

Britain's gig economy has more than doubled over the past three years and now accounts for some 4.7 million workers. As the nine-to-five job has been dismantled, so have workers' rights: according to research from the New Economics Foundation, one in six UK workers are now in low-paid, insecure jobs where many lack protections afforded to permanent workers such as sick pay. When it comes to public health, these precarious working conditions are a major weakness in the government's capacity to prevent the transmission of infection and disease.

A recent coronavirus briefing sent to workers by the pub chain JD Wetherspoon reflected this fact. The chain, which has been criticised in the past for paying "poverty wages", said that workers who are quarantined under government orders will be treated the same as those who are off sick. This means they won't be paid for the first three days of absence, and will only receive statutory sick pay (amounting to £94.25 a week for a maximum of 28 weeks) after this period. Employees can, it added, "request the option to take paid holiday". One would imagine that workers faced with this predicament would be more likely to turn up to work and end up spreading the disease than they would had they been paid for the first three days of quarantine.

The government's advice to self-isolate seems tone-deaf to the reality of many British workers. Precarious work, where employees can't afford to take sick days for fear of losing their wages, impedes what is needed most when containing a pandemic: acting with other people in mind. This is why public health policies must place the interests of the least well-off at their centre.

We've known this for over 150 years. After a series of deadly cholera outbreaks in the mid-19th century, the social reformer Edwin Chadwick identified that sanitation conditions in the poorest parts of the country represented a threat to public health. He waged a campaign that led to the implementation of the 1848 Public Health Act, which transformed the state's laissez-faire approach towards the health of the poor and culminated in the creation of public sewers that helped reduce the prevalence of disease.

Chadwick's ideas were premised on a key insight: the conditions of the worst-off in society affect the health of everyone - and even the wealthiest aren't immune to the threat of disease.

*
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Economics
Foundation



No 10's power to pick myriad fights is fading

Gaby Hinsliff



When the weather changes in politics, it changes fast. It's only a few weeks since Brexit was the biggest peacetime challenge in a generation, a task so huge many wondered if Boris Johnson could pull it off, but now it's no longer even the most pressing problem on his list.

As of this week, his government is at war not only with coronavirus but with some of its own civil servants; the BBC; swathes of businesses opposed to Brexit; and possibly soon the judiciary, depending on the outcome of a review led by the new attorney general, Suella Braverman. All while trying to deliver a trade deal with Europe on a timetable that many in

Brussels already thought was impossible. Get either the first or the last of those wrong, and the worst-case scenario is a 2008-style economic crash, not to mention the potential loss of life in a pandemic. Get both of them wrong, and the consequences don't bear thinking about.

In the spare time it no longer has, the government is trying to plan for reducing carbon emissions to net zero while simultaneously closing a gap between north and south that has built up over decades. Thanks to Downing Street's kneecapping of the former chancellor Sajid Javid, a budget supposed to encompass all this is being rewritten at speed by his successor, Rishi Sunak, who may be a rising star but has been in government for only two years and in post for less than three weeks.

The downsides of being led by people who will cross the road to pick an unnecessary fight should be obvious now even to Downing Street's lords of creative destruction, but just to spell it out: government is hard enough as it is without starting fires for the sake of it. Now those in the Johnson camp who scoffed at Theresa May for failing to get anything much done beyond Brexit are about to find out that there are only so many fronts on which a government can fight.

The first obvious casualty is Downing Street's hopes of getting big, bold and potentially controversial economic reforms through while it's still riding high from a general election victory. Next week's budget is expected to see radical ideas shelved in favour of measures to support the economy through a potentially serious outbreak of the virus. If a pandemic that could last for months does end up choking off economic growth, however temporarily, big question marks hover over the spending promises that helped bring Johnson to power. Where is the money going to come from?

Second, environmentalists should be braced for growing opposition to the net zero target if an economic downturn follows. Many natural Conservative

supporters were never wholly convinced by the argument. If the economy falters, then expect to hear arguments that Britain can't afford to hamstring itself any further. The target of decarbonising the economy by 2050 is hard to duck, given that it's enshrined in law and in the Conservative manifesto, and some bold early decisions have been taken. But becoming a world leader in tackling the climate crisis isn't critical to Johnson's political project of keeping "red wall" voters who have defected to the Tories happy, and that makes it potentially vulnerable.

Third, the way Brexit negotiators respond to what looks like the coming storm is crucial. For the next few months EU leaders will have their hands full dealing with coronavirus, as well as what looks like a resurgence of an immigration crisis on its borders after Turkey announced it can no longer absorb refugees fleeing Syria; they're likely to have less time, patience and political capital to spare for Britain's self-inflicted neuroses over Brexit. But EU leaders may also be more anxious than they would have been about the risks of an uncontrolled and disorderly exit creating disruption across the continent. The sane outcome would be a far stronger will on both sides of the Channel to agree a deal, but that will take hitherto unseen reserves of maturity on both sides, plus a willingness to compromise.

Things could be worse, obviously; check out the footage of Donald Trump's televised meeting with pharmaceutical companies, during which the president is patiently led through some basic questions about how vaccines work and how long clinical trials take. But for all our sakes, the prime minister's intervention yesterday needs to be a turning point. There can be no more unforced errors, no more personal vendettas, no more unnecessary brinkmanship or starting fires for the sake of it. If Johnson's infant government is to get us all through this, it needs to grow up, and fast.

Cancel rugby to tackle coronavirus outbreak

Your article (Matt Hancock: shutting down UK cities ‘may become necessary’, theguardian.com, 1 March) quotes the health secretary as saying that measures taken by the government to tackle the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus might include banning large gatherings of people at sporting events. What is he waiting for? Has he ever travelled to and attended a rugby international at Twickenham? This Saturday 80,000-plus people from all over England and Wales will be squashed in like sardines on London transport and congregate in overcrowded bars and pubs with inadequate hand-washing facilities in and around Twickenham.

The virtual impossibility of effective hand-washing, the alcohol-induced abatement in personal and food hygiene standards often observed at these events, and the propensity to eat fast food in the hand creates an unprecedented cocktail of opportunities for this disease to spread. The following Saturday the same opportunities will be created at Cardiff, where another 80,000 people, including many

Matt Hancock should have the courage to do the right thing and face the unpopularity that will follow

Keith Wilson

from Scotland, will mingle at very close quarters.

The existence of asymptomatic carriers of the virus has been demonstrated. We have at least one case where the virus appears to have been acquired within the UK. The demographic of rugby supporters suggests that a significant number of people attending will be “older people” and the World Health Organization director general’s advice, given last week, was that older people should avoid crowded places.

John Harris’s article (Journal, 2 March) suggests that the coronavirus outbreak will show us what this government is really made of. Here is a first test for Mr Hancock. He should have the courage to do the right thing and face the undoubted unpopularity that will follow. He must require the English and Welsh RFUs to postpone the mass gatherings totalling 160,000 individuals, many of them over 60. These internationals – I have tickets for both – can be played in the autumn alongside the already postponed/cancelled Italy matches against England and Ireland. By then, hopefully, Mr Johnson’s battle plan will be showing results.

Keith Wilson

Former associate professor in primary and community care, Doncaster, South Yorkshire

● I agree with John Harris that Boris Johnson’s tendency to self-isolate in a crisis – and his response to the coronavirus outbreak in particular – will test the government’s ability to cope and lead from the front. Part

of the problem is that like so many senior politicians, Matt Hancock has a degree in philosophy, politics and economics, not science, with the prime minister himself being a classics graduate. While I accept that ministers have expert advisers, this cannot instil public confidence during science-based emergencies such as flooding (climate change) and Covid-19 (epidemiology) if their leaders are scientifically illiterate.

Stan Labovitch

Windsor, Berkshire

● I’m just what Matt Hancock is looking for: a retired doctor with international experience in general practice, tropical medicine, epidemiology and public health. Twelve months’ retraining should get me ready to man the medical barricades – if Covid-19 doesn’t get me first.

Dr John Doherty

Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire

● Matt Hancock advises children to wash their hands while singing “Happy Birthday”. Under the circumstances, would not Ring a Ring o’ Roses be more appropriate?

Matthew Heaney

Bochum, Germany

● With handshakes off the agenda due to the coronavirus outbreak, I prefer the traditional form of greeting – the clenched-fist salute. In the unlikely event of encountering Boris Johnson in the wild, a two-finger salute is substituted.

Keith Flett

Tottenham, London

● Jacob Rees-Mogg exhorts us to wash our hands to the tune of the national anthem, but I prefer Beethoven’s Ode To Joy. It cleans, it refreshes.

Marcia Saunders

London



A thousand footsteps

‘Sunset over London. Long and multiple exposure of the Millennium footbridge and St Paul’s Cathedral, with the milky sky and warm sunset turning the cold October afternoon into a smooth and timeless picture’

BOBAN VAIAGICH/GUARDIAN COMMUNITY

Brutal reality of Conservative rule

When I chaired the FDA, the senior civil servants’ union, in the late 1980s, something similar to the current breakdown in relations between ministers and civil servants was taking place (No 10 accused of helping to smear civil servants as Patel row deepens, 2 March). There had been several years of complaints from ministers about an elective dictatorship and the dangers of politicising the civil service. A famous leak from Thatcher’s inner circle added weight to the complaints, when she asked, before confirming the appointment of the permanent secretary to the Treasury, if he was “one of us”.

Some bizarre policies were implemented during this period, among the most glaring of which were the poll tax and a series of privatisations, some of which were doomed to fail. This, as with the present government, represented the triumph of ideology over

common sense, and could be directly linked to attempts to freeze civil servants out of the decision-making process while increasing the number of political advisers.

Under pressure from the FDA, a code of conduct was drawn up covering the relationship between government and the civil service. This only worked up to a point, because effective relations are only possible when reasonable people behave reasonably.

The row that has forced Sir Philip Rutnam to resign as permanent secretary of the Home Office in the face of alleged bullying of staff by the home secretary, and the apparent lack of concern of the prime minister in this and other cases, are sure signs that relations are in for a further bruising time. This is already leading to ineffective governance from which we shall all suffer.

Alan Healey

Baschurch, Shropshire

● William Davies provides profound insight in his analysis that the humanities provide a common enemy, uniting the nationalists and free marketers of contemporary conservatism (Journal, 28 February).

With a cruel, self-regarding government, an inept opposition, a cowed civil service and thuggish advisers, Westminster and Whitehall at best neglect, though more often attack, institutions, individuals and learning that aid the understanding of our common humanity.

Further, humanities are not the preserve of an Oxbridge elite. There are plenty of the rest of us who value the teaching of English literature, history and art, our libraries, the BBC and freely accessible works of art. We need to fight for the study of these subjects at all levels. In the long run, they should help to inform more kindly and better-disposed administrations. In the short term, the humanities can inform how we might cope with the daily brutality and brutality of this government.

Alan Coombe

London

Addiction help can cut homelessness

While discussions about the accuracy of the latest government figures for numbers of rough sleepers in England and Wales will no doubt continue (Homelessness: Ministry accused of under-reporting issue, 27 February), it’s important not to lose sight of the fact that even this estimate is an increase of 141% since 2010.

We need to remain focused on interventions that will prevent people ending up on the streets, or help them back into stable housing as quickly as possible.

One such intervention is substance misuse treatment. But with addiction psychiatry on the verge of extinction and addiction services subjected to swingeing financial cuts, it is hard to see how the government will end rough sleeping by 2024.

A recent report from the Royal College of Psychiatrists shows there

are only 16 addiction psychiatry trainees in England. When the dwindling band of current consultant addiction psychiatrists retire, there’s a real danger their expertise will be lost for ever. Without them, services will be deprived of the specialist knowledge needed to treat people with complex social, physical and mental health needs.

While numbers of trainees fall and cuts to services continue unabated, substance misuse continues to be a life-threatening problem for nearly two-thirds of rough sleepers. Many will die because of their drug use and those who come to the streets with an addiction are more likely to get stuck there.

It’s vital that high-quality treatment of substance misuse is available to those sleeping rough or at risk of doing so. Without urgent government funding and an increase in the number of doctors specialising in addictions, the numbers of people sleeping on the streets will only rise.

Dr Jenny Drife

Adviser on homelessness and mental health, Royal College of Psychiatrists



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Bringing together a divided nation

The commitments in all the main UK parties’ manifestos to set up an assembly, convention or commission to review our democracy was a rare and welcome piece of political unity. The government has now pledged to bring forward its commission on the constitution, democracy and rights (Report, 14 February).

There will be some whose default position will be to blindly oppose the commission as partisan and elitist. Others will say the government should use its new majority to impose whatever it likes. Both ends of this bell curve are wrong. Most of us know that our democracy desperately needs a review, and it needs to be a review where citizens themselves can engage, deliberate and be heard.

This balance can be simply achieved by government beginning its review process by using the globally tried-and-tested tools of deliberative democracy. These are online and offline, including scientifically

selected microcosms of the UK to populate citizens’ assemblies and a well-resourced and independently refereed national conversation. These techniques would carefully discover and distil people’s practical proposals to be then sent to the commission. The government would then use its electoral legitimacy to take forward recommendations through the normal parliamentary procedures of acceptance, rejection or amendment.

Having a citizens’ contribution using the sensible and thoughtful deliberative processes that are now on offer, there would be a real chance that the outcome would not only be reforming, respected and sustainable, but also widely discussed, understood and accepted across our many false divides.

We and the government should not waste this unique opportunity.
Graham Allen
Convener, Citizens’ Convention on UK Democracy; former Labour MP

● Your article on the north-south divide (‘Go big or go home’ to heal UK divide, report tells No 10, 27 February) could have provided a historical perspective. For example, previous UK governments lost the “colonies” of Ireland in the 20th century and the USA in the 18th century largely because they refused to take heed of legitimate grievances and failed to empower the people being governed.

This UK government needs to listen to the “colonies” within England, as well as Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; otherwise history may repeat itself. It needs to reform parliament, which is a largely 19th-century institution, operating 20th-century procedures in a 21st-century society. It should change our “winner takes all” voting system, because it is unfair and undemocratic. It must decentralise power to the “colonies”, because Westminster is too London-centric.

Sadly, power is a very addictive drug, and very few politicians seem able to kick the habit.
Tony Leather
South Shields, Tyne and Wear

Corrections and clarifications

● The NHS says you should wash your hands for as long as it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice, about 20 seconds, not once as we said in an article about coronavirus protection measures (Does hand gel keep you safe?, 2 March, page 4, G2).

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Cracking the whip on a cruel practice

Finally a piece of good news from horse racing (Whips to be banned in £1.8m Racing League summer series, Sport, 3 March). Jeremy Wray of the Racing League says “what we’re doing is probably in line with future thinking”. Indeed. And the sooner the better. Horse racing exists solely for the benefit of the gambling industry – cruelty should play no part in it.

Richard Exworthy
Cardiff

● Matthew Cobb’s long read “Why your brain is not a computer” (Journal, 27 February) should be entitled “Why your brain is not a laptop”. The brain performs computations on information and is, by definition, a computer. But it clearly does not work in the same way as any laptop or desktop PC.
Matthew Buchan
Neuroscientist, University of Oxford

● Maryrose Romer mentions marmalade treats (Letters, 2 March). My father, who would have been 116 years old if he were still alive, often mentioned a favourite that his mother used to make. The main ingredients were eggs and marmalade – he called it Dr Rawes, or was it Dr Orrs? I only ever heard it, never saw it written down. Has anyone got the recipe?
Andree Livesey
Silverdale, Lancashire

● My little sister came home from school singing, “All things bright and beautiful, All teachers great and small...” It seemed appropriate (Letters, 3 March).
Pam Laurance
London

● Not sure about the UK (Laureate calls for UK to establish national ‘poetry headquarters’, 27 February), but Ireland should choose Limerick.
Jude Carr
London

● Did Boris Johnson forget about the withdrawal agreement?
Peter Walton
London

Established 1906

Country diary

Langstone, Hampshire

During the winter months, sunset is heralded by a steady stream of gulls flying over my house. Having spent the day feeding inland, puddling for worms on playing fields and farmland, picking over the waste at landfill sites or scavenging for discarded food in urban streets and car parks, they commute coastward to Langstone Harbour.

Gulls often travel long distances between their feeding and roosting grounds, and they tend to favour specific sites. Many are heading due south to West Hayling local nature reserve, where they will raft on the saline lagoon or congregate on the remains of the rocky bund walls that once separated the oyster bed pens. Others will veer west towards Farlington Marshes, where they can spend the night in relative safety, or one of the five low-lying harbour islands.

Black-headed gulls are the first to appear, the majority still displaying their smudgy-headed winter plumage, though the number of chocolate-brown-hooded birds is increasing day by day. The earliest arrivals often alight on my neighbour’s roof. As the light fades they grow noticeably restless, flying up en masse, circling above the garden and resettling on the ridge tiles, before finally taking off to resume their journey.

While black-headed gulls are by far the most numerous species participating in this daily commute, they are joined by small groups of herring gulls, who announce their presence with plaintive cries. I’m yet to hear the exclamatory mewling call of a Mediterranean gull this year, but I have spotted one or two slipping silently overhead, their unmarked underwing coverts and pure white wingtips distinguishing them from the similarly sized black-headed gulls, whose primary feathers are tipped with black.

A few gulls travel solo, but most move in a loose V formation, appearing to follow the same narrow flight lines. Their passage coincides with the rush-hour traffic flowing on to Hayling Island, each bird’s wings beating in time with the rhythmic clunk-clunk of tyres driving over the loose manhole covers along the Langstone Road.
Claire Stares



Twitter: [@gdncountrydiary](https://twitter.com/gdncountrydiary)
 ILLUSTRATION: CLIFFORD HARPER



Freeman Dyson

Theoretical physicist and mathematician with far-fetched ideas about the future

The physicist Freeman Dyson, who has died aged 96, became famous within science for mathematical solutions so advanced that they could only be applied to complex problems of atomic theory and popular with the public for ideas so far-fetched they seemed close to lunacy.

As a postgraduate student, Dyson devised – during a Greyhound bus ride in the US – the answer to a conundrum in quantum electrodynamics that had stumped the greats of physics such as Richard Feynman and Hans Bethe. As an author, guru and apostle for science, Dyson also proposed that humans might genetically engineer trees that could grow on comets to provide new habitats for humans.

He had already put forward the solution to the energy crisis: a sufficiently advanced civilisation would, he argued, crunch up all the unused planets and asteroids to form a huge shell around its parent star, to reflect and exploit its radiation. Science fiction writers were delighted. The first suggestion

became known as the Dyson tree. The second is called the Dyson sphere.

He was born in Crowthorne, Berkshire. His father, George Dyson, was a composer, and his mother, Mildred Atkey, a lawyer. The young Dyson reported that his happiest school holiday – from Winchester college – was spent working his way, from 6am to 10pm, through 700 problems in Piaggio's Differential Equations. "I intended to speak the language of Einstein," he said in his 1979 memoir *Disturbing the Universe*. "I was in love with mathematics and nothing else mattered."

He graduated from Cambridge and in 1943 became a civilian scientist with RAF Bomber Command, which experienced hideous losses with each raid over Germany. Dyson and his colleagues suggested that the Lancaster bomber's gun turrets slowed the plane, increased its burden and made it more vulnerable to German fighters: without the turrets, it might gain an extra 50mph and be much more manoeuvrable.

He was ignored. Bomber Command, he was later to write, "might have been invented by a mad scientist as an example to exhibit as

clearly as possible the evil aspects of science and technology: the Lancaster, in itself a magnificent flying machine, made into a death trap for the boys who flew it. A huge organisation dedicated to the purpose of burning cities and killing people, and doing it badly."

The young Dyson was already convinced of some moral purpose to the universe and remained a non-denominational Christian all his life.

After the second world war he went to Cornell University in New York state to begin research in physics under Bethe, one of the team at Los Alamos that fashioned the atomic bomb.

By 1947, the challenge was one of pure science: to forge an accurate theory that described how atoms and electrons behaved when they absorbed or emitted light. The broad basis of what was called quantum electrodynamics had been proposed by the British scientist Paul Dirac and others. The next step was to calculate the precise behaviour inside an atom. Using different approaches, both Julian Schwinger and Feynman delivered convincing solutions, but their answers did not quite square with each other.

It was while crossing Nebraska by bus, reading James Joyce and the biography of Pandit Nehru, that the young Dyson saw how to resolve the work of the two men and help win them the 1965 Nobel prize: "It came bursting into my consciousness, like an explosion," Dyson wrote. "I had no pencil and paper, but everything was so clear I did not need to write it down."

A few days later he moved – for almost all of the rest of his life – to the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton, home of Albert Einstein and Robert Oppenheimer, the father of the atomic bomb. "It was exactly a year since I had left England to learn physics from the Americans. And

now here I was a year later, walking down the road to the institute on a September morning, to teach the great Oppenheimer how to do physics. The whole situation seemed too absurd to be credible," Dyson wrote later.

He went on to deliver a series of papers that resolved the problems of quantum electrodynamics. He did not share in Feynman's and Schwinger's Nobel prize. He did not complain. "I was not inventing new physics," he said. "I merely clarified what was already there so that others could see the larger picture."

Dyson tackled complex problems in theoretical physics and mathematics – there is a mathematical tool called the Dyson series and another called Dyson's transform – and enjoyed the affection and respect of scientists everywhere. He took US citizenship, and worked on Project Orion, one of America's oddest and most ambitious space ventures.

Orion was to be an enormous spacecraft, with a crew of 200 scientists and engineers, driven by nuclear weapons: warheads would be ejected one after another from the spaceship and detonated. This repeated pulse of blasts would generate speeds so colossal that the spacecraft could reach Mars in two weeks, and get to Saturn, explore the planet's moons, and get back to Earth again within seven months. Modern spacecraft launched by chemical rockets can take 12 months to reach Mars and more than seven years to reach Saturn.

The Orion project faltered under the burden of technical problems, and then was abandoned in 1965 after the partial test ban treaty that outlawed nuclear explosions in space.

Dyson was a widely read man with a gift for memorable remarks and a great talent for presenting – with calm logic and bright language – ideas for which the term "outside the envelope" could only be the most feeble understatement.

In 1960, in a paper for the journal *Science*, he argued that a technologically advanced civilisation would sooner or later surround its home star with reflective material to make full use of all its radiation. The extraterrestrials could do this by pulverising a planet the size of Jupiter, and spreading its fabric in a thin shell around their star, at twice the distance of the Earth from the sun. Although the starlight would be masked, the shell or sphere would inevitably warm up. So people seeking extraterrestrial intelligence should first look for a very large infra-red glow somewhere in the galaxy.

In 1972 – a year before the first serious experiments in manipulating DNA – Dyson outlined, in a Birkbeck College lecture, in London, his vision of biological engineering. He predicted that scavenging microbes could be altered to harvest minerals, neutralise toxins and to clean up plastic litter and hazardous radioactive materials.

The more I examine the universe, the more evidence I find that the universe must have known we were coming

Dyson in 2016. He proposed that comets could serve as nurseries for genetically altered trees that could grow, in the absence of gravity, to heights of hundreds of miles and release oxygen from their roots to sustain human life

BRYAN BEDDER/GETTY

He then proposed that comets – lumps of ice and organic chemicals that periodically orbit the sun – could serve as nurseries for genetically altered trees that could grow, in the absence of gravity, to heights of hundreds of miles, and release oxygen from their roots to sustain human life. “Seen from far away, the comet will look like a small potato sprouting an immense growth of stems and foliage. When man comes to live on the comets, he will find himself returning to the arboreal existence of his ancestors,” he told a delighted audience.

He went on to predict robot explorers that could replicate themselves and plants that would make seeds and propagate across the galaxy. Plants could grow their own greenhouses, he argued, just as turtles could grow shells and bears grow fur. People may not have believed a word, but they listened intently.

Dyson had a disarming honesty that admitted the possibility of error. It was, he would say, better to be wrong than to be vague, and much more fun to be contradicted than to be ignored. He enjoyed unorthodox propositions and contrarian arguments; he maintained a certain scepticism about climate change (“the fuss about global warming is greatly exaggerated”) and he argued that a commercial free-for-all was more likely to deliver the right design for spacecraft than a government-directed effort.

He had no patience with those physicists who argued that the world was the consequence of blind chance. “The more I examine the universe and the details of its architecture, the more evidence I find that the universe must in some sense have known we were coming,” he said.

His Cambridge mentor, the mathematician GH Hardy, had told him: “Young men should prove theorems, old men should write books.” After *Disturbing the Universe*, Dyson wrote a number of compelling books, including *Infinite in All Directions* (1988) and *Imagined Worlds* (1997). In 2000, he was awarded the Templeton prize – worth more than the Nobel – given annually for progress towards discoveries about spiritual realities.

He was a frequent essayist and to the end a contributor to the *New York Review of Books*. But he continued to think as a scientist and in 2012 entered the field of mathematical biology with a published paper on game theory in human cooperation and Darwinian evolution.

Dyson is survived by his second wife, Imme (nee Jung), whom he married in 1958, and their daughters, Dorothy, Emily, Mia and Rebecca; by a son, George, and daughter, Esther, from his first marriage, to Verena Huber, which ended in divorce; and by a stepdaughter, Katarina, and 16 grandchildren.

Tim Radford

Freeman John Dyson, mathematician and physicist, born 15 December 1923; died 28 February 2020

Jack Welch

Titan of the US business world who set the trend for ruthless cost-cutting and ‘downsizing’

Jack Welch, who has died aged 84, was a titan of US industry in the last quarter of the 20th century. As chairman and chief executive of General Electric (GE) for 20 years from 1981, he gained worldwide respect in the business world as a manager and leader of one of the most successful industrial companies of the era.

His prowess at reducing employee numbers attracted the nickname Neutron Jack, referring to the neutron bomb, which would wipe out people but leave property unharmed. His example set the trend for the “downsizing” that swept through the business world on both sides of the Atlantic during the 1980s and 90s. It also created a goldmine for shareholders – by the time he retired in 2001 GE shares were worth more than 30 times what they had been when he took up the reins.

Welch came from an Irish working-class background – his father, John Sr, worked on the railways – and was born in Peabody, Massachusetts. As a child Jack lacked confidence and had a bad stutter. But his mother, Grace, pushed her only child, building his confidence and instilling a determination to win at whatever

he was engaged in. “She kicked my ass when it was important and she hugged me when it was important,” he said of her.

He studied chemical engineering at the University of Massachusetts and went on to gain a doctorate from the University of Illinois in 1960. It seems an unlikely grounding for a captain of industry, but when he moved to GE on completing his PhD, he lost no time climbing the corporate ladder. The group appointed him its youngest vice-president in 1972 and he became vice-chairman in 1979. That was a precursor to taking over the top job two years later, when he set about transforming the sprawling, sleepy bureaucracy.

He adopted two guiding principles – pursue a small number of objectives with single-minded passion and build a high-quality management team. Both required ruthlessness. The first led GE to strip away many traditional but poorly performing manufacturing businesses, instead building a presence in television and the media (through the NBC network) and financial services. Welch popularised what became a common big-business strategy of aiming to be in at least second place in all of a company’s markets.



Welch’s prowess at reducing employee numbers earned him the nickname Neutron Jack – a reference to the bomb that can wipe out people but leave property unharmed CORBIS/GETTY

“I should have torn down the structures sooner. This so-called ‘Toughest Boss in America’ wasn’t tough enough

The second principle required a continuing cull of the least able managers. The chief executive instigated a ruthless analysis of the management cadres; and he insisted that the bottom 10% each year should be fired.

In his first five years the GE headcount fell by more than 100,000 people, a quarter of the workforce. Welch admitted it was unpleasant firing people and closing down plants, but excused his ruthless approach on the grounds that this would achieve the best possible long-term financial performance, and that the managers who were fired were given generous pay-offs and time to find more suitable jobs.

“I detest bad businesses, because bad businesses crumble people,” he said, reflecting in the memoir he produced on retiring in 2001 that he should have changed the group much faster. “I should have torn down the structures sooner, sold off weak businesses faster than I did. This so-called ‘Toughest Boss in America’ wasn’t tough enough.”

His record was not without failures – most notable being the ill-advised purchase of a Wall Street brokerage, Kidder Peabody. But it was more successful than any of his contemporaries, so much so that publishers paid \$10m for his book, published in the US as *Straight from the Gut* but more prosaically in the UK as *What I’ve Learned Leading a Great Company and Great People*. The fee was donated to charities, as the multimillionaire Welch had no need of such small change.

The book dwelt on his love of golf, but otherwise was preoccupied with how to build management teams, with confident people in the right jobs.

Welch is survived by his third wife, Suzy (nee Wetlaufer), a former editor of the *Harvard Business Review*, whom he met when she went to interview him in 2001. Welch’s second wife, Jane (nee Beasley), whom he had married in 1989, filed for divorce soon afterwards.

This set off a frenzy among the scandal-obsessed business press because her claim revealed astonishing largesse on the part of GE towards its retired boss. It turned out that he was entitled to a hatful of perks, such as tickets to the Met, the New York Yankees and Wimbledon, an apartment on Central Park in New York and use of the corporate jet.

In the wake of the frauds at Enron, WorldCom and other US groups, the retirement deal attracted the attention of the financial authorities and threatened to tarnish the hero’s image. But Welch rescued his reputation by renouncing the extravagances.

He is also survived by two sons, John and Mark, and two daughters, Katherine and Anne, from his first marriage, to Caroline (nee Osborn), which ended in divorce in 1987.

Roger Cowe

Jack (John Francis) Welch, businessman, born 19 November 1935; died 1 March 2020

Birthdays

Lord (Michael) Ashcroft, businessman, writer and former Conservative party deputy chair, 74; **Victoria Barnsley**, publisher, 66; **Shakin’ Stevens**, singer, 72; **Glen Baxter**, artist, 76; **Nicholas Coleridge**, chair, Victoria and Albert Museum, 63; **Wendy Dagworthy**, fashion designer, 70; **Sir Kenny Dalglish**, football manager, 69; **Adam Deacon**, actor, film director and rapper, 37; **Graham Dowling**, cricketer, 83; **James Ellroy**, writer, 72; **Jan Garbarek**, saxophonist, 73; **Harvey Goldsmith**, impresario, 74; **Bernard Haitink**, conductor, 91; **The Right Rev Anne Hollinghurst**, bishop of Aston, 56; **Dame Lin Homer**, former chief executive, HM Revenue and Customs, 63; **Khaled Hosseini**, author and physician, 55; **Ralph Kirshbaum**, cellist, 74; **Ivan Lewis**, former Labour MP, 53; **Adrian Lyne**, film director, 79; **Jason Marsalis**, jazz drummer, 43; **Loretta Minghella**, former chief executive, Christian Aid, 58; **Penny Mordaunt**, Conservative MP and paymaster general, 47; **Chris Rea**, guitarist, singer and songwriter, 69; **Lord (David) Richards of Herstmonceux**, former chief of defence staff, 68; **Sir Simon Robertson**, former chair, Rolls-Royce, 79; **Sir Ken Robinson**, educationist, 70; **Sam Taylor-Johnson**, artist and film-maker, 53; **Willie Thorne**, snooker player, 66; **Alison Wheeler**, singer, 48.

Letter Zara Steiner

Zara Steiner (obituary, 24 February) will certainly be remembered “with great affection” by her female students. She was also an encouraging, engaging and exacting tutor of male students. While at Queens’ College, Cambridge, in the early 1970s, I was supervised by her for the American history paper, not her specialist subject but one to which she brought great knowledge and all her analytical acumen. I too remember her with great affection.

Geoff Smith

Announcements

Deaths
MACCARTHY, Fiona, OBE, biographer and cultural historian. Died peacefully on Saturday 29 February 2020 in Sheffield aged 80. Funeral service for family and friends at St Michael and All Angels Church, Hathersage, Derbyshire on Thursday 12 March at 2pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Twentieth Century Society (www.c20society.org.uk/action/donate). A memorial gathering to celebrate Fiona MacCarthy’s life and work will be held in London later in the year.

For Announcements, Acknowledgments, Adoptions, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Births, Deaths, Engagements, Memorial Services and In Memoriam, phone 020 3353 2114 or email: announcements@theguardian.com including your name, address and telephone number between 10am and 11am Mon-Fri.

I trust Merkel on racism, but not others in her party

Mithu Sanyal



I have to admit that when I heard the news my first thought was: “I hope the perpetrator wasn’t a migrant.” The press would surely go at us hammer and tongs again, warning about the danger posed by immigration in general and Muslims in particular. There would be endless articles and talk shows discussing the threat. My second thought was: “Thank God it is a white guy.”

On 19 February, Tobias Rathjen went into two shisha bars in the town of Hanau, near Frankfurt, shooting people he described as “foreign”. In his “manifesto”, if you can call such a rambling text a manifesto, he stated he wanted to cleanse Germany from ... us. Two weeks on from the carnage in Hanau, I wonder how I could have felt relieved.

The general public in Germany seemed surprised. Shocked, I would have understood, but surprised? Hanau was the latest in a series of far-right terror attacks in Germany. Yet in our collective minds terror is brown. And I don’t mean that politically.

So unused are we to seeing media images of victims who aren’t white that we have no language for them. The TV news (Die Tagesschau) called the crime “fremdenfeindlich”, which translates as “hostility towards foreigners”. But the people who were murdered in Hanau weren’t foreigners. Most of them were second- or third-generation Germans. How long do we have to live in Germany before we stop being foreigners?

What got me most was the video of a young survivor talking from his hospital bed. When the gunman started shooting, he had fallen on top of another young man, and his friends threw themselves on top of him.

With so many raids on shisha bars in the past 18 months, no wonder the killer thought they were hotbeds of crime



They were a ball of human beings and the one lying underneath said: “Brother, I can’t feel my tongue. I can’t breathe.” He had been shot in the throat.

He sounded so much like my teenage son when he talks to his friend: “Brother, I kiss your eyes.” But when I emailed a friend whose children were the same age and asked her how she felt after Hanau, she replied: “Hanau?” Of course she had been outraged by the crime. It just wasn’t foremost in her mind.

It’s the same with rightwing propaganda. The journalist Yassin Musharbash explains: “When certain politicians say certain things, most Germans see their statements as indecent, but the migrant part of the population sees them as threats.”

Just a few days before the Hanau shootings the far-right political party AfD had published a colouring book for children. One of the pictures showed a convoy of cars bearing Turkish flags, the drivers brandishing weapons. Likewise, the Hanau killer had ranted in his manifesto about “crimes committed by non-white immigrants”. So crimes by white immigrants seemed fine. Another picture invited children to happily colour in black men with bones in their curly hair groping white women in a swimming pool. (To be honest, most books in my childhood had racist images like that, but I thought we’d progressed.)

Yet another picture showed women in burqas with loads of children in front of a clocktower showing five minutes to 12, which is the German metaphor for “act now before it’s too late”. And yes, that was the other dominant strand in the Hanau manifesto: “inferior” races outbreeding Germans or tainting their blood by interbreeding. (Incidentally, a journalist tried to find out just how many women wore burqas in Germany and found two ... worn by white women in an S&M studio. There are practically no burqas worn in German streets. Still, the AfD ran its 2017 election campaign with “bikinis instead of burqas” on its posters.)

The common reflex is to think that everything is worse now than it used to be. That’s neither true nor fair. A lot has changed. Angela Merkel will attend a memorial service for the Hanau victims. The then chancellor, Helmut Kohl, didn’t think it was important to show his respects when neo-Nazis set fire to a house in Solingen in 1993 and killed five people of Turkish descent. He had “more important appointments” and didn’t go in for “condolence tourism”.

It could just be that Merkel is a nicer human being than Kohl, and she probably is. But it is also a new era. When the neo-Nazi terrorist group National Socialist Underground (NSU) killed at least nine people of Turkish descent in the 2000s, the equation went: Turkish people have been killed so the killers must be Turkish, too, and they must all be gang members. The police preferred to listen to a clairvoyant than to suggestions the crimes could be racially motivated. The media called the murders the “doner killings”, turning the victims from human beings into fast food. The NSU files will be kept from public view for 30 years.

This time Angela Merkel made it clear Hanau was a racist crime. Just her using the word “racist” was a quantum leap. And I trust her when she says she will do everything to prevent this from happening again. But I don’t trust Friedrich Merz, who wants to be her successor as CDU leader. Six days after Hanau he proposed to fight rightwing terror by targeting foreign “clan criminality” and implementing stricter border controls. When a colleague from Der Spiegel asked if he’d really said that, Merz replied: “The answer is yes.”

“Clan criminality” is also the pet hate of North Rhine-Westphalia’s CDU interior minister, Herbert Reul. He has ordered more than 1,000 raids on shisha bars in his state in the last 18 months alone. No wonder the Hanau killer had the impression that shisha bars were hotbeds of crime.

Make no mistake, the terrorist and he alone is responsible for his actions. But we – and by this I mean our politicians and media – are all guilty of creating a climate of fear and mistrust. But that also means we can change it. What we need most at the moment is civic trust. Oh, and the release of those NSU files.



*** Mithu Sanyal** is an author, academic and broadcaster based in Düsseldorf

My ministerial job has come at a price. But it’s worth it

Alma Zadić



◀ Mourners at a memorial service for the Hanau victims

PHOTOGRAPH: ARMANDO BABANI/EPA

Andrzej Krauze on the coronavirus

With northern Italy at the centre of a coronavirus outbreak and fears of a pandemic growing, the EU needs to coordinate its response



Shaking the hand of the Austrian president, Alexander Van der Bellen, during my inauguration as Austria's justice minister in January was a profoundly moving moment for me and for my family. But it was moving also for a great many people who came to Austria as migrants or refugees. To see a former child refugee from the Bosnian war sworn in as a government minister in the country to which her family fled in 1995 was for many hugely symbolic – a signal that they, too, had now been fully accepted as part of Austrian society, with the right to participate in the country's politics and even to shape it.

But from day one, becoming the embodiment of this acceptance also unleashed a torrent of hate directed at me from the right and from proponents of the far right in Austria. Resentments that had been held down over years resurfaced. In just two months, the Austrian authorities have recorded more than 25,500 incidents of publicly made hate speech and hate comments directed at or about me, from racist insults to calls to go back where I came from. Because some of these messages included credible death threats, the Austrian security services issued me with 24-hour protection. "A bullet is reserved for you," one of these messages said.

Since then I have been asked if I regretted accepting the job in government, and if I regretted entering a coalition formed between the conservative People's party and my party, the Greens. On both counts, I strongly believe I made the right call because of the change that could potentially follow – a change we badly need.

First, it has to be said that, despite the hate, I also received a huge outpouring of support. The silent majority that stands for an open and inclusive society has found its voice. The hate I received was drowned in a flood of solidarity, each message eager to offer the assurance that Austria is inclusive and diverse. It was as if parts of society suddenly dared to break their silence to make a stand for openness. This showed me that only a small – if unfortunately loud – group resents a foreign-born Austrian being in government.

Second, I do believe that it was necessary for the Green party to take up the opportunity to shape politics and enter government. In government we have the power to shape the future in Austria and more broadly in Europe, where we must collectively confront the challenges of our generation and lay the foundations for progressive and sustainable change.

Alma Zadić
is Austria's
minister
of justice

Since the climate crisis does not wait for progressive majorities, we need to seize the chance and act now

While illiberal demagoguery and populism are still on the rise in Europe, threatening our liberal democratic peace and demonstrating how polarised and fragmented our societies are becoming, we have to find ways to bridge these divisions. The fact that we are also seeing Green parties winning parliamentary seats and influencing power across Europe is the most hopeful sign I can think of.

Austria shows the challenges faced. The previous coalition government included the far-right Freedom party, a party that questioned the independence of our public broadcaster and raided the Austrian intelligence agency. All of this was accompanied by xenophobic and antisemitic incidents associated with this party.

It all culminated in the so-called Ibiza-gate corruption scandal last summer, which led to the resignation of the country's vice-chancellor and the break-up of the administration. The affair has corroded public trust in government.

A further, existential challenge we are facing is the climate crisis. We are at a point in history where we have to act before the effects on future generations become irreparable. Since the climate crisis does not wait for progressive majorities, we need to seize the chance and act now. If we, as Greens, get the opportunity to enter government and influence the right policies to substantially reduce carbon dioxide emissions, we have a duty to act.

The latest election in Austria provided proof that the Greens have many of the right answers to our current challenges. And a record number of voters conferred their trust on us, making it our responsibility to respond.

Thus, while entering a coalition with a fundamentally different party is a challenge, it is at the same time an opportunity – a challenge because on the most divisive issues, such as migration or national security, we have fundamentally different approaches.

Yet it is a chance to show that within our social contract we can respectfully engage even with those who have different opinions. This can help to bridge the gaps within our society. It can help politicians regain the trust of the people, fight corruption and strengthen civil society.

Who gets to share power makes a difference in a democracy. And because of our decision, it is not the far right, the alternative coalition partner that was open to the conservatives. Today, even the biggest points of divergence in our coalition agreement are debated openly and therefore in a new constructive light. We start out with different opinions and yet manage to find a common solution.

Right now, for example, we are not trying to find a scapegoat when confronting the spread of coronavirus. Instead we are trying to enact evidence-based policies grounded in a sober assessment of what is in front of us. The public, at least for now, appears to appreciate the change. It is too early to tell whether this experiment will succeed, but we are off to a promising start.

These are the first signs of a discourse that is changing because my colleagues and I stand for progressive change. All of a sudden we are not on the retreat, but on the offensive with our view of the world. This is where I see a change of momentum. My ethic is grounded in the responsibility we share for the planet and society, and the chance to bring about sustainable change.

12Puzzles

Yesterday's solutions

Killer sudoku

Easy

8	3	4	6	7	2	9	5	1
5	9	1	8	4	3	2	6	7
2	7	6	5	1	9	8	3	4
3	8	7	4	6	5	1	9	2
1	4	2	9	3	7	6	8	5
6	5	9	1	2	8	4	7	3
4	1	5	7	9	6	3	2	8
7	6	3	2	8	1	5	4	9
9	2	8	3	5	4	7	1	6

Medium

7	6	4	1	3	9	5	8	2
1	5	9	2	8	4	6	7	3
8	3	2	6	5	7	4	9	1
6	9	1	3	7	2	8	4	5
4	8	3	5	9	6	2	1	7
5	2	7	4	1	8	3	6	9
3	1	6	7	4	5	9	2	8
2	7	8	9	6	3	1	5	4
9	4	5	8	2	1	7	3	6

Codeword

M	M	S	A	J	P	W
A	T	O	N	E	T	E
D	U	M	H	G	Q	D
R	E	S	P	I	R	E
I	S	I	A	E		
G	E	E	Z	E	R	S
A	X	T	L	C		
L	A	D	D	I	E	S
L	O	T	E	I	C	
G	L	O	S	S	F	A
R	R	F	G	T		
I	N	K	E	D	E	N
E	N	R	C	U	E	H
V	I	O	L	I	S	T
E	B	P	S	N	D	D

Cryptic crossword

Solution No. 28,071

W	F	O	F	D	H
M	E	A	L	B	U
L	O	L	O	A	L
F	L	I	P	I	N
D	G	S	L	A	I
P	O	L	I	C	E
N	N	N	I	S	
R	E	C	E	I	P
X	U	G	G	O	
D	I	C	T	A	T
R	R	U	A	A	E
H	O	M	E	O	P
N	M	J	E	B	E
L	I	B	I	D	O
C	S	B	G	A	Y



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Killer sudoku

Easy

The normal rules of Sudoku apply: fill each row, column and 3x3 box with all the numbers from 1 to 9. In addition, the digits in each inner shape (marked by dots) must add up to the number in the top corner of that box. No digit can be repeated within an inner shape.

3	26	11	16	4	13
		6	33		
13		21		15	12
7	7		4	6	
	22		6		14
28	9	9	9	11	
	3	17	12		
	5	11	10	9	6
		10	17		

Medium

9	22	13	8	9	3
7		7	17		
	17	14	19	9	29
21		22	7		
		13			
		8	20	15	
20	18	23			
		4		23	
7		18	3		

Codeword

Each letter of the alphabet makes at least one appearance in the grid, and is represented by the same number wherever it appears. The letters decoded should help you to identify other letters and words in the grid.

	11		26		17		11	18	17	17	16	8
9	17	14	22	8	2	14	4		5		3	
	5		3		2		23		4	3	7	10
	16	17	25	22	24	5	22		23		7	
	3		7		18		6	24	12	P	8	10
13	18	24	3	20	26		23				23	
		18					25		22	14	25	26
	11		7	18	24	7	1	24	18		1	
19	17	1	26		25				3			
	14				15		3	16	16	24	12	22
26	21	14	3	18	24		18		20		17	
	14		4		4	17	16	14	26	22	26	
7	24	24	12		17		8		14		24	
	22		8		12	18	24	16	23	17	14	26
24	26	16	3	12	24		26		22		18	
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	C	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
											P	

Guardian cryptic crossword No 28,072 set by Tramp

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9										10				
11										12				
13						14								15
16					17								18	
19		20								21				
22										23				
24														

Across

- 9 Houdini act – legend that will clear 22 down in 10 (6,3)
10 Sounds like very big is better? (5)
11 See 12
12,21,11,22down Houdini's act two recurrence – lethal ties loosened (7,5,7,4)
13 Stop! Time to get out without wearing straps (5)
14 Spot journalist and paper giving false hope (4,5)
16 Simple Harry Houdini act with steps (15)
19 Irregular pressure: expression of surprise in danger (9)
21 See 12
22 Reached top of cold water with arms at side (7)
23 A long time after dropping cage (7)
24 Fat conjuror ultimately saws woman in half (5)
25 They let out zebras regularly to chase on fields (9)

Down

- 1 Clear to detect the lies (3-7)
2 Scrambles signal, primarily reaching foreign dishes (8)
3 Rabbits run out of veg (6)
4 Air final part of Love Island (4)
5 NYPD case to get resolved having been shortened (10)

- 6 Regular exercise – shaving seconds off an Olympic record? (8)
7 First couple from Scotland seen on border with English map (6)
8 Tone down adult clues for this? (4)
14 Plays around with free 20 hand (10)
15 Mrs needs no foreign currency (10)
17 Pleasure-seekers find love in parking spaces by the roadside (8)
18 Tied: one's left in that place locked up? (8)
20 Stud could come out with these stories about royal? Prince goes first (6)
21 Feature of magazine article with small piece making cover (4,2)
22 See 12
23 Artist buried alive, partially (4)